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African Violet MAGAZINE

March • April 2009 Volume 62 Number 2

AVSA Information

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CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Judy Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509. *Email* <AVSAawards@valomet.com>.

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SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards, and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* <mhall370@earthlink.net>. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.** Please check for new prices on AVSA Show Packets.

Due to increases in shipping costs, the following rates for the SSA packet and AVSA collection rosettes are effective now: $5.00 when requesting the SSA packet with no rosettes; $12.50 when requesting the SSA packet and one or two rosettes; $20.00 when requesting the SSA packet and two sets of rosettes.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE INFORMATION

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

TALLY TIME: Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19057. *E-mail* <hmenzel@erols.com>.

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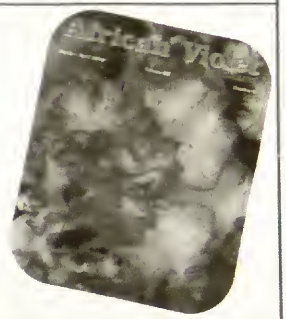

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Joyce Stork, President

2501 E. 23rd Ave. S • Fremont, NE 68025
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

Dear Members,

I had been putting it off, but I finally did it! I changed my life insurance policy to add AVSA's Tinari Endowment Fund as a beneficiary. Don't know what took so long. It was as easy as a phone call to my insurance agent. With one more call to the AVSA office to tell them that I have taken this step, I'll be a part of the AVSA Legacy Society. Would you like to know more? The September 2008 issue of the African Violet Magazine (page 42) has all the details. AVSA is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible. Don't put it off any longer... do it today. It's good for AVSA's future.

Here's a few special notes about our upcoming Reno convention:

1) Did the Early Bird Deadline registration for the 2009 Reno convention sneak up on you? It wasn't all your fault! Due to a problem mailing the last issue of the magazine, you probably didn't receive your convention information until late in January! We heard your complaints and have **extended the convention registration deadline to March 6** to give you an extra ten days to register at the best rate. Thanks to those who get their registration in ahead of the rush-- it really does help our office staff.
2) The writeup for the Basic Skills Presentation at the Reno convention was published in the January magazine without identifying who would be the presenter. I am now pleased to tell you that four of the individuals nominated to become AVSA Directors this year will be leading this presentation. The panel includes Beverly Powers of Texas, Richard Follett of Virginia, Barbara Elkin of California, and Terry Klemesrud of Minnesota. They bring a widely varying range of experience that should be very helpful to newer growers. So come learn about how to grow violets and meet some up and coming members of AVSA at the same time!
3) The Growers' Forum, which is held on Tuesday evening at the Reno convention, was also advertised in the January magazine before the names of the presenters were known. Diane Miller of California will moderate the 2009 panel which will include Kent Stork of Nebraska, Paul Sorano of New York, and Anne Nicholas of Texas.
4) Have you noticed that we have been talking about the 2009 convention being both in Reno and in Sparks, Nevada? Sparks is the actual location of our convention hotel, but the Reno airport is just ten minutes away. I am ready! I cannot wait to cruise beautiful Lake Tahoe at the end of convention. I'm looking forward to seeing my old friends and all the violets. I'm looking forward to a really fun hotel atmosphere. I'm praying for great weather and safe travel for all of you. If you haven't signed up, there's still time to do so, but don't delay!

Has your affiliate club e-filed the 990-N form required by the IRS? According to a mailing I received recently: *"The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires exempt organizations that don't meet the income thresholds for Form 990 or 990-EZ to file a new return with the IRS...The Pension Protection Act also mandates that the IRS revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to file a Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, or 990-N for three consecutive years. Revocations will happen automatically beginning in May 2010. A nonprofit that loses its exemption because of failure to file will have to reapply to the IRS for exemption."* Please don't be one of the anticipated half million groups that thinks this isn't important. Groups that lose their tax-exempt status will be required to pay income tax and may be subject to other penalties for failure to comply. While there were some glitches in the system last year, I understand that this year it takes about ten minutes to complete the form online. If you are uncertain about what this is or how to conform to the rule, see the article by Terri Post on page 55 in the November 2007 Issue of the African Violet Magazine. If you have questions, you are encouraged to contact Terri at postter@longlines.com.

This is my last official message to you as president. It has been a great privilege to serve you for these last two years. Presidents don't go away immediately, however. I will continue for the next two years as Immediate Past President and a voting member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Ron Davidson, current first vice president, will be assuming the reins of this wonderful society. I wish you well, Ron. Take good care of AVSA.

Happy Growing!

Joyce Stork

Joyce Stork
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes

By Ruth Rumsey, AVM Editor

2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

The Reno convention is right around the corner. The registration deadline has been extended, so please take advantage of the new deadline, March 6, and sign up!

We had visitors in the AVSA office in early February. 1st Vice President, **Ron Davidson**, 3rd Vice President, **John Carter**, and current Treasurer, **Sue Ramser** were here and spent some time in the office with us. We had dinner with them at one of our local Cajun seafood restaurants, where we were joined by our office secretary, **Amy Carruth**, and her young assistant, **Grant**.

We also took a trip to our printing company, Gulfstream, in Houston, and toured the facility with our friend **Hank Luehrmann**. Our officers were impressed with the company that prints this magazine.

I received a letter from one of our Canadian members, suggesting that I include Celsius temperatures along with those in Fahrenheit. I certainly will, because as the member pointed out, *we are an International society!* I think I got in the habit of converting everything to Fahrenheit when I used a chart because I had no computer.

If you are a member who finds that your AVM is *always* late in arriving, please talk with your local post office. Delays due to national holidays or disasters are understood, but as all AVMs leave the mail house on the same day, go to distribution centers across the country, and from there to your local post office, that is the best place to look. We have found that in the case of periodicals, they are often set aside until all the first class mail is delivered.

In this issue, we have several articles that are a bit different from the usual fare.

Anne and **Richard Nicholas'** daughter, **Laura**, was married in the fall, and as African violets are so much a part of their lives, they were included in the wedding. The bride and her attendants carried potted African violets, adorned with ribbon and lace. (Find "Wedding Violets" on page 28.) **Tom Glembocki** provided the photographs for this article and another from Anne, with "how - to" directions on making potted African violets into bouquets. (See pages 51 - 53).

If you purchase plants at the convention, you will want to read **Diane Miller's** fantastic article on page 36. Diane has been dubbed the "Packing Queen" by her friends. This article is another "how-to" with photos to show you how to pack 65 plants into one box for easy transport.

I wish you all a spring filled with blooming flowers and fun. Joining us in Reno for the 63rd AVSA Annual Convention would be a great start!

Dear Editor,

I just have to write to you and tell you how excited I am. I am a member of AVSA. I receive the magazine regularly. In the March/April '08 issue was an article "Are Your Violets Ready for That Long Vacation?"

It was long overdue. I had previously asked friends come to tend my violets when I would be gone, with some "not so good" results - they would often forget to come and water. This article helped me to manage my extensive violet collection and still have a life.

Newly retired, I wanted to travel. I really thought I'd have to give up my violets to do this. I tried this new idea and IT WORKED BEAUTIFULLY! You just can't imagine the excitement when I walked into my plant room after being gone for 2 1/2 weeks, and everything was alive and doing well. I normally don't sing the praises of magazine articles, but just had to in this case. Thanks to your organization, contributors, and staff for great service and education.

Barbara Antkowiak
Rapid City, SD

Please disregard the **Admiral Violets** ad in the Jan/Feb issue of the AVM.
Due to family health issues, they will be taking a year off.
We look forward to Admiral Violets advertising with us again.

Early Bird Deadline for Reno AVSA Convention Registration Has Been Extended!

The "Early Bird" Registration deadline for the Reno AVSA Convention has been extended to March 6. As you probably noticed, the January African Violet Magazine was delayed in reaching many members. This issue contains all the registration information for attending the Reno convention. With an earlier-than-usual 2009 convention, the original deadline was set for February 25. Lest anyone be caught unaware, we are pushing that deadline back by ten days so that everyone who wants to attend will still be able to get in at the lower registration rate.

Don't delay! Even March 6 is going to come fast! See you in Reno!

Joyce Stork - President
AVSA

Editor's Note:

In Sue Ramser's biography in the Jan/Feb issue of the AVM, I, in error, indicated that she was nominated for Treasurer. Sue is the 2009 nominee for AVSA Secretary. The corrected biography is below.

For Secretary **– Sue Ramser**

Sue Ramser of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for thirty-three years. She has served as show chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President nine times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, Vice President, and President.

Sue has served as a member of the AVSA classification committee, aide to the president for the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director, AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer coordinator, Secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and AVSA Secretary. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, Master Judge, and Teacher. In 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools" and is currently working on its revision.

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband Charles is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.

Question Box

By Sue Haffner

3015 Timmy Ave. • Clovis, CA 93612
Email: sueh@csufresno.edu

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your plants are doing well and that you're getting geared up for the show and sale season that's upon us.

First, an update: in the July-August 2008 issue, in response to the question, "What do I do with my big two-headed violet?" I told about the grower who approached our club members about how to divide a violet that had grown into a huge double-headed specimen. We recommended that she detach the rosettes and set them down to root. She did that, and one of the resulting plants won Best-in-Show at our local fair in October! (Not only that, but she has now joined our club.)

Q. It's recommended that minis and semis be repotted two or three times each year. That means repotting during the winter, which people also recommend that you don't do. What do you think: can I repot my plants in winter?

A. I think you can repot your plants anytime. African violets grow all year around. That's my observation, at least. It would only be if the plants had distinct dormant periods that you should be concerned about this. I'm not sure why someone would be adamant that you not repot in winter. Would it be that cooler temperatures in your house might make repotting more risky? But your house wouldn't be *that* much colder, would it? Go ahead and repot a few plants, using your usual procedures. Then put the plants under cover (plastic bags or a humidity dome of some sort) and check them periodically. Gradually expose them to the air and see how they do. If everything seems fine, go ahead and repot the rest of the plants. If any readers have different observations about winter repotting, I would like to hear your comments.

Q. I just potted up a bunch of young violets. Some are tiny, just detached from the mother leaf. Others are more mature (minis and semi-minis, mostly), some are root-pruned, others have not had their roots disturbed very much. How long do I need to keep them enclosed in plastic bags before I can open them to the air?

A. I'm not sure that anyone could give you a hard-and-fast number for "how long." First, you need to keep an eye on these transplants. Check after a couple of weeks to see if they seem to be rooted. If the foliage is crisp and, especially, if you can see signs of new growth, you can begin exposing the plants to the air. Not all the plants will make equal progress, of course. Those that need to re-grow their roots will take longer. (See also the answer to the question above.)

Q. Do you agree that violet cultivars developed by hybridizers in your general region would do better for you than other cultivars? That is, that these varieties would be more adapted to your climate?

A. It does seem plausible, doesn't it, that African violet hybrids that have been created by growers in a particular part of the country would do better for growers in that area. Presumably, these cultivars would have been exposed – to some degree – to the climate, relative humidity and tap water of the region. Certainly, growers in my area have always looked for varieties that are heat-tolerant. Still, I'm not sure that it necessarily follows that your local hybridizer's plants will do well for you. There are just too many variables involved in plant growth. Your hybridizer is probably an experienced grower, someone who has invested a lot of time and effort into the hobby. He or she "has it down to a science", so to speak. You might not be able to reproduce their exact conditions in your home. By all means support the hybridizers in your area and try to grow and share their plants. But don't limit yourself to just those varieties.

Q. I put down a bunch of leaves last year and have had what I think is a true sport from one of them. I was advised that maybe I could register it, but wonder if there is some way to find out if this variety has sported before and, if so, what the sport looked like, etc.

A. You're in luck. Joe Bruns has developed a resource that needs to be better known: a list of registered violet sports, going back to 1980. You can find it on the AVSA website: www.avsa.org/Library/sports.htm. It lists and describes the cultivars and their sports.

Q. Have you ever heard of using aspirins in plant water?

A. Yes, as a matter of fact. The use of aspirin water has been under study for several years as a plant growth accelerator. At the University of Rhode Island, they've been spraying their organic vegetable garden plants with a dilute solution (3 aspirins in 4 gallons of water), and have found amazing results in improved growth and yields of many crops. "Willow Water," water exposed to cut willow stems and bark, has long been used for propagating cuttings of many different plants. This water contains some of the

same chemical components as aspirin. In fact, it was used as an analgesic even in ancient times. Since aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid, presumably it affects the pH of the water that the Rhode Island researchers have been using. I don't know if they were employing it in combination with any other fertilizers. I also am not sure how you could adapt this to violet growing, but it sounds like it might make for an interesting experiment.

Q. I only have a few violets – it's all I have room for. I have them under a grow-light in my entry, and I really love the way the plants look under those lights. They're healthy and bloom just about all the time. An experienced grower that I was talking to scoffed at me, saying that I was throwing money away with those expensive lights, that cool whites were just as good and much cheaper. Now I'm wondering if I should replace the grow lights with regular fluorescents when it's time for new lights.

A. I'll tell you what I tell everyone who asks me about violet growing: if your plants seem to be doing well, if they bloom and please you, then you're doing things right. Don't change your procedures just because someone tells you to do it a different way. I don't have any of the grow lights right now, but I used to have them and, yes, they made the violets look very attractive. (In fact, they made me feel like I was a better grower than I actually was!) If you prefer the grow lights, by all means, continue to use them.

Q. I had a plant friend who had a great growing room that her husband built for her. It was separate from the house and had a cement floor with a drain in the middle. My friend worked at a clinic and, when they got shipments of pharmaceuticals that were packed in dry ice, she would commandeer the dry ice, bring it home, throw it into that plant room and shut the door. The plants just loved it. You should have seen her gesneriads – they went nuts. What was it about that dry ice that the plants loved?

A. Dry ice is solid carbon dioxide (CO2), used as a cooling agent. It no doubt cooled the plant room, but it also supplied more CO2 in the air as it evaporated. CO2 is a critical component of photosynthesis, and it is likely that the air in our homes may generally be deficient in it. I envy your friend her plant room. It sounds like a perfect sort of place to experiment with different aspects of growing, such as the use of added CO2. Even though dry ice is used in theatrical fog machines, and seems to be safe, I would be reluctant to use it in the house.

Q. After years of growing violets the "regular" way, I got around to wicking them. I like the results so far, but I must have missed something. How do you keep the reservoir from getting algae? I seem to remember something about Clorox. Can I use the same chemicals I use in the pool?

A. Clorox makes a great disinfectant for the wick reservoirs, themselves, but it should never be used in the wick water, as small concentrations of it can kill a plant. The same goes for pool chemicals. Some growers recommend an anti-bacterial anti-fungal product called Physan 20, used at a rate of 1/8 to 1/4 tsp per gallon of water. (Add it to the water after the container is filled, as the product does foam up, though it will settle down in a few minutes.) Some growers also use it as a spray, though not on the plants, themselves, but for cleaning shelves, tables, sinks, etc. Orchid growers of my acquaintance clean their greenhouses with it.

Q. I have a question about Achimines. I have a devil of a time keeping the rhizomes going from one year to the next. If I keep them in their pots, dry, they seem to go permanently dormant. Usually, I can't even find them when I dump the pot. I was told to put them in baggies in slightly moistened vermiculite. This was somewhat better, but by the time I would get around to looking at them, they had produced long string-like growths that I have to cut off before I plant the rhizomes. What's the right way to go about this?

A. I can relate to this, as I also lose track of rhizomes when I keep them in their old pots. I think I usually keep them too dry. But I might suggest that you not cut off that long, stringy growth. I know it looks like it's too etiolated to develop into anything, but go ahead and plant it and the rhizome deeply enough that the very tip of the shoot is at the soil surface. Within a week or so that growth will perk up and become normal, healthy, turgid growth. Really, it will.

Q. I've grown violets and some other gesneriads from seed and find that it's kind of fun. I intend to do more of it, including harvesting seeds from my own plants. What's the best way to keep these seeds over time? Is it true that most gesneriad seed is only good for a limited time?

A. Good for you! I think more hobbyists should try growing plants from seeds. It's really satisfying to see these tiny seeds (most gesneriad seed is like dust) produce a crop of little seedlings. As to how long these seeds remain viable, if they are stored properly, they will be good for years. First, when seeds are formed, they acquire a protective coat, or *testa*, and when the essential internal structure is complete, the seed begins a drying-out process. When the seed becomes dormant, it is in suspended animation. As long as it is kept dry, it will keep quite a while. I put dried seeds in a piece of paper towel or tissue, put that inside a labeled paper envelope, and seal the

envelopes inside a glass jar and keep it in the refrigerator. Some growers transfer the seed, after it's been in the refrigerator for 24 hours, to the freezer. Some also put a layer of a drying agent in the bottom of the jar, but, as my area has very low relative humidity, I haven't done that. When you take the jar out of the refrigerator or freezer, be sure to avoid having condensation form on the glass, as it could have a deleterious effect on the seeds. Oh, and be sure, when you get down to planting, that you don't sow all the seed of a variety at the same time. Keep some aside, just in case of crop failure.

Q. Are dark colored plastic pots better to use for your plants than white pots?

A. This has been a subject of some debate, actually. I know veteran growers who swear that the flexible brown plastic pots lined inside with a black coating produce superior plant growth. Most of the mass market violets seem to be planted in these nowadays. My impression is that there's a consensus that dark pots provide a better root environment. White pots let in more light. How many times have you repotted a plant in a white pot to find traces of green algae on the inside surface? I've seen that a lot. White plastic pots also deteriorate much faster than darker colored ones. In the house, they discolor after a couple of years of use. Outside, they get brittle and crumble away after a few seasons – at least, they do in my climate. I'm not sure what the implications are for frequently repotted plants such as violets, but I would opt for dark colored pots, given a choice.

AVSA DONATION FUND LEVELS

Thumbprint (Under $25)

Two-tone ($25-$49)

Multicolor ($50-$99)

Geneva ($100-$499)

Fantasy ($500-$999)

Chimera (Over $1000)

Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

***Email:* jbruns@qwip.net**

A name reservation costs $1.00 ($5.00 for non-members) for each plant, and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00 ($5.00 for non-members). Registration of the plant is $5.00 ($25.00 for non-members) unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is $4.00 ($20.00 for non-members).

Melvin Lineberg – Birmingham, AL

'Willodene' (10010) 10/18/2008 (M. Lineberg/I. Lineberg) Double light peach-pink two-tone/darker ruffled edge, variable green tips. Variegated dark green, white and pink, wavy. **Large**

*****

Hortense Pittman – Celina, TX

'Jolly Maiden' (10011) 11/22/2008 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white star/pink markings. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

The following descriptions have been changed at the request of the hybridizers:

'Senk's Snowy Egret' (9868) – Change from **Semiminiature trailer** to **Standard trailer**.

'Jolly Frills' (9907) – Change foliage from dark green to **Variegated** dark green and white.

'Little Cesar' (9046) Add "/variable lighter tips" to blossom description.

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Tony's Blue Magic

Exhibited by: ***Beverley Williams***

Hybridized by: ***T. Hulleman***

Large

Small Talk

By Laurel D. Goretsky

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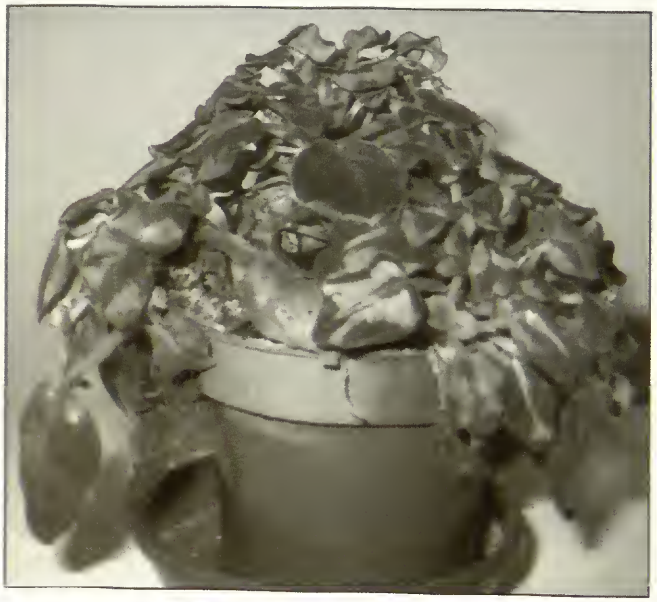
***Email:* Laurel@Goretsky.ca**

I can't believe that it is almost convention time! I love getting the January/February AVM issue with the pages that have all the convention details on them. I was thinking the other day how when I am "show" mode only, the plants that I might take to exhibit get my full attention. My other poor violets barely get watered. After the American and Canadian conventions are over and we have had our local show and sale, I head to the plant room and am greeted with some very unfortunate looking plants.

My husband, Winston, is a brave soul and will often bring some of his plants that have seen better days to our local club meetings. We all have a good laugh but are educated as well on how to "fix" our violets that might seem ready for the garbage. Sometimes, we do need to throw out certain plants, but many can also be saved and made beautiful again.

In this column, I would like to share with you two troubled violets that I have in my collection. I will show you what they look like now, how they look cleaned and fixed up, and in a future column, how they have grown.



The first violet I want to show you is "Rob's Humpty Doo." This is a semiminiature trailer with white sticktite pansy blossoms that have a wide bright blue edge. There are enough green leaves and at least three crowns on it to make it worth saving. I begin by removing all the dead and damaged leaves and blossoms, if there are any. Also, I remove a few leaves along each crown to try and encourage even more crowns to form. It is in a 2 1/2 inch standard pot and I will repot it to a 4 inch pot. It is not quite large enough to put it in a 5 inch bulb pan. Because it is such a forlom looking plant, I am going to "mold" pot it and keep the root ball in tact. Mold potting is to put a clean pot the size that it is currently in (2 1/2 inches) into the larger pot. Then, you fill the soil in around the smaller pot. You remove the clean pot from your mold in the 4 inch pot and take the violet you are repotting out of the pot it is in and place it into the mold you have made. Push the new soil around the root ball and add more soil if needed. When I am finished repotting, I water it from the bottom by filling a saucer with water and then placing the repotted plant in it. "Rob's Humpty Doo" has been renewed and with some more diligent care on my part, should flourish.

The next plant that I want to show you is "Persian Lace." Looking at the plant, you might conclude that it is a trailer. Unfortunately, it is not. "Persian Lace" is a semiminiature with double white frilled pansy blossoms with pale blue-blushed lower petals and light blue veined top petals. There are no

blossoms to remove from this poor plant as how could they grow with all that energy going into extra leaf production? I will remove all the dead leaves and more until I have one healthy looking crown. It appears to have some suckers so I might repot two crowns in separate pots because it is a sweet plant when grown and cared for properly. After I have a crown or two ready, I will take enough bottom leaves off to have a neck able to place in the soil. Since the crowns are quite small, I pot them into 2 1/2 inch pots and then place them in a container for extra humidity. I water them from the bottom also.

I could have shown you more plants that are in need of fixing, but I didn't want to embarrass myself too badly! My point was more to show you that even the most hopeless looking violets can be saved. Some plants do need to be thrown out. If they have a pest or disease that has infected the whole plant and can not be controlled, throw the plant away. If there is not at least a crown of four or more leaves that are green, I would suggest getting rid of the plant also. Save one leaf, if you can, but a plant with mostly dead leaves and only a few green ones probably won't survive if you try to repot it. If you are not sure whether to get rid of a plant or fix it up, ask an experienced grower in your club. For those that are computer savvy, you can take a digital photo and send it off to one of the online, violet chat groups that are available.

The plants that you have fixed up will need a bit of extra attention over the first month or so. Don't let them get too dried out, especially, since this might shock them to an extreme that they may not recover from.

I look forward to showing you two healthier, happier plants in my collection in a future column. Until next time, have fun growing those delightful miniatures and semiminiatures.

The Pox Called Powdery Mildew

By Robert Hall

If you ask various growers what conditions cause powdery mildew to flourish, you will get varying answers. Paul Kroll blames dry conditions, Bev Williams blames warm and humid conditions, and I blame cool conditions. How can these disparate conditions be blamed for the pox of powdery mildew?

Well, the circumstances that these growing conditions have in common are conditions that cause the plants stress and it is this stress that causes mildew. If the plants are too dry, too warm, too humid, or too cool, the natural defenses that the plants have are breached, and pathogens are able to achieve a foot hold. The fungicides that we apply to the plants will initially be effective, but as soon as these agents wear off the mildew reoccurs as the original problem has not been corrected.

So, if the too dry or too wet or too cool conditions remain, the plant's innate immunity will still be compromised even after the fungicide has worked. In my case, the too cool conditions, I was unable to change the egregious problem of cold stress as I was growing in a cool, half-finished basement in a draughty country cottage. I attempted to improve the growing conditions by increasing the humidity by means of covering the plant stands (achieving excellent 70% humidity). I also increased the air circulation by putting a small fan right inside the covered plant stands, and though the mildew persisted, it was reduced.

I subsequently was able to move the plant stands to a warmer area and the mildew became a problem of the past. These were the same plants, plant stands, soil, fertilizer, and same watering methods, but there was no mildew.

I would suggest that many of the problems that we have as hobby indoor growers stem from the fact that we are stressing the plants with the conditions with which we are faced. Identifying the stressors is not always easy and often it is only by trial and error that we finally are able to achieve a state of homeostasis that allows the plants to attain their full potential. Unfortunately, the mildew problem resulted in a loss of two thirds of my collection and now comes the task of reacquiring plants. Thanks to the largess of fellow growers, sales tables, and the various seed funds, I am well on my way to replenishing my plant collection.

From the Toronto Gesneriad Society *Newsletter*

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Monseigneur

Exhibited by: ***Louise McPherson***

Hybridized by: ***D. Croteau***

Standard

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Alliance

Exhibited by: ***Doris Brownlie***

Hybridized by: ***D. Croteau***

Standard

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

S. velutina

Exhibited by: ***Eileen McGrath***

Tally Time 2008

Heather Menzel • 135 North Main Street • Yardley, PA 19067

Welcome to the 2008 edition of Tally Time, a summary of the African violet varieties and species receiving the greatest number of total awards in AVSA Standard shows. This year it is based on 66 reports from six geographical areas, and how exciting to note the special anniversaries of at least three clubs: a 50th for the Naugatonic AVS (CT) and a 60th for both the Richmond AVS (VA) and the Garden State AVC (NJ).

For 2009 Species reporting, please follow the new numbering system and species identifications listed in the 2008, Nov.-Dec. AVSA issue. Also note that the new Tally Time sheet incorporates the addition of Species collections. Whether you report by mail or email, please use or follow the outline of the Tally Time sheet and report only those items listed.

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best in Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, SM, Mini, Trailer or Species
STANDARDS	17	5		**Harbor Blue** T. Weber #6174	8	4
	9	1	1	**Ness' Candy Pink** D. Ness #8133	5	2
	7	1	1	**Optimara EverPraise** R. Holtkamp #9126	3	2
	7	2		**Rebel's Rhubarb Frost** R. Bann #9447	3	2
SEMIMINIATURES	26		3	**Ness' Crinkle Blue** D. Ness #8136	15	8
	12	1	3	**Cool Blue** H. Pittman #8758	4	4
	12			**Irish Flirt** S. Sorano #7577	11	1
	11	1	1	**Ness' Satin Rose** D. Ness #8144	6	3
	10	1		**Ness' Cranberry Swirl** D. Ness #8135	6	3
	8			**Rob's Boogie Woogie** R. Robinson #8606	6	2
	7	1		**Rob's Heat Wave** R. Robinson #7887	4	2
MINIATURES	14		1	**Orchard's Bumble Magnet** R. Wilson #8479	4	9
	6			**Optimara Rose Quartz** Holtkamp #6969	2	4
	5	1		**Frosted Denim** S. Sorano #8513	2	2
	5			**Optimara Little Moonstone** Holtkamp #7352	3	2
TRAILERS	15	2	3	**Rob's Boolaroo** R. Robinson #8053	3	7
	10	1	1	**Milky Way Trail** J. Stahl #7159	2	6
	5		1	**Rob's Galiwinku** R. Robinson #8059	1	3
	4			**Cirelda** P. Tracey #3620	1	3
	4			**Rob's Lilli Pilli** R. Robinson #8063	1	3
	4	1		**Yesterday's Child** Jeff Smith #8908	1	2

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES	17	1		*S. rupicola* S 10b	6	10
	12		1	*S. ionantha* S 5	3	8
	11	1		*S. velutina* S 11	1	9
	8		1	*S. grandifolia #299* S 7a	3	4
	6			*S. confusa* S 16	1	5
	6		1	*S. grandifolia #237* S 7	3	2

The following table lists the award winners by geographical regions

Geographical Region, State/Province (Number of Shows) - Region I Arizona (1), California (7), Nebraska (1); **Region II** Illinois (3), Indiana (1), Iowa (2), Minnesota (1), Missouri (3), Ohio (3), Wisconsin (3); **Region III** Connecticut (4), Delaware (1), Maryland (1), Massachusetts (1), New Jersey (7), New York (5), Pennsylvania (2); **Region IV** Arkansas (1), Texas (6); **Region V** Alabama (1), Florida (5), Tennessee (1), Virginia (2); **Region VI** New Brunswick (1), Ontario (2), Quebec (1).

	Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS	**Harbor Blue**	17	1	4	3	1	3	5
	Ness' Candy Pink	9	1	1		5	2	
	Optimara EverPraise	7		2	5			
	Rebel's Rhubarb Frost	7		3	3	1		
SEMIMINIATURES	**Ness' Crinkle Blue**	26	5	6	11	1	2	1
	Cool Blue	12	2		3	6	1	
	Irish Flirt	12	2	2	5	1	2	
	Ness' Satin Rose	11		6	1	1	3	
	Ness' Cranberry Swirl	10		1	1		4	4
	Rob's Boogie Woogie	8	2	2	2			2
	Rob's Heat Wave	7	1	2	4			
MINIATURES	**Orchard's Bumble Magnet**	14	2	7	3	1	1	
	Optimara Rose Quartz	6	3	1			1	1
	Frosted Denim	5		3			1	1
	Optimara Little Moonshine	5		2		1	1	1
TRAILERS	**Rob's Boolaroo**	15	4		8	3		
	Milky Way Trail	10	2	5	1		2	
	Rob's Gallwinku	5	2				3	
	Cirelda	4	1	1	2			
	Rob's Lilli Pilli	4		1	3			
	Yesterday's Child	4		2		2		
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES	***S. rupicola***	17	2	6	6	1	1	1
	S. ionantha	12		4	5	1	2	
	S. velutina	11	5		1	3	1	1
	S. grandifolia #299	8		3	5			
	S. confusa	6		1	1	2		
	S. grandifolia #237	6		1	5			
	Number of Winners	241	34	64	75	29	27	12
	Number of Shows Reported	66	9	16	21	7	9	4

Other varieties winning 4 or more awards within an area were:

Geographical Region	Variety (Number of Awards)
I	Windy Day (4)
II	Grandmother's Halo (6), S. *orbicularis* purpurea (4)
III	Buckeye Seductress (6), Slow Dancin' (5), Jean-Pierre Croteau (4), Boo Man (4), Planet Kid (4), S. Sigi Falls (4)
V	Ma's Debutante (4)

A Family Portrait

By Georgene Albrecht

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This gorgeous plant was a show-stopper at the Ohio State African violet show. It was grown by Mel Grice of Englewood, Ohio.

Sinningia (sin-NIN-jee-ah) 'Peridot's Darth Vader' was hybridized by Iain James of Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The size of the four perfect blooms was astounding, considering the entire plant was only about twelve-inches across.

Mel also reported that the plant had been traveling around. This was the second trip to Kingwood Center in Ohio, and the blooms lasted at least three weeks.

Mel has grown this plant from a quarter-size tuber to this compact size in about three years. The foliage growth habit seems to be very sturdy and the blooms are larger than most blooms of the hybrid florists' gloxinias. He has been using T-8 fluorescent tubes, which are listed as 32 watts. He started the plant very close, about three-inches, under the tubes for about twelve hours a day. He grows with Pat Hancock's soil recipe, and places the plant on a wick-watering system. (See AVM indexes for this recipe.)

***Sinningia* 'Peridot's Darth Vader'**

He rotates several water-soluble fertilizer formulas. A description of the bloom color is difficult. The blooms have a ruffled lavender edge, then, a purple margin, then a red inner flush that displays dark spots and white circles which blend into the white throat. The foliage has a lovely olive-green cast. Mel enjoys sharing cuttings, so I hope we see this variety appear on the sale tables around the country. I think he said that he received his cutting from Dr. Bill Price.

OTT-LITE

Imagine my surprise when a friend gave me a new OTT-LITE bulb she had found at Home Depot. This is a 48-inch fluorescent tube most akin to natural light. Created by Dr. John Ott, to give specific wavelengths, it benefits plants, animals and people.

It was awarded by the Garden Club of America as a superior light supplement. OTT-LITE also makes lamps for reading and true-color crafting. Dr. Ott discovered the remarkable effects of these specific wavelengths for plants while conducting innovative research in time lapse photography for the Walt Disney Company. The bulb is energy efficient and is rated to last up to 20,000 hours. This is a T-12 40 watt tube. My new African-violets are going to be placed under the bulb. Hopefully, they will thrive.

Technology and African Violets

By John Carter, Chairman of the AVSA Technology Committee

Many of us think of caring for our African violets as an escape from the hurried world, where technology often adds more stress to our lives than enjoyment. A quiet time in the plant room without cell phone, computer, and Wall Street news can be a refreshing break.

However, technology has brought a lot of information to the violet grower. Many of us remember the small green master variety lists which were never very current or easy to use. Joe Bruns brought us the First Class program for our computers. Suddenly, we were able to search for names, descriptions, hybridizers, and about anything we could think of. It then got better, with First Class 2 which added photos. The addition of photos was made possible in part by the technology of the digital camera. So the technology that surrounds us and sometimes raises our stress level, has made our violet world a better place.

There are two areas of technology within the African Violet Society that need attention now, and we need your help. Computers can and do last a number of years but the programs that we use on them continue to evolve and outgrow the computer. Our Editor's computer is six years old, and is no longer supported by the vendor. Newer releases of her software require newer, more powerful computing resources. It will cost about $2000 to upgrade our Editor's computer and get her current with the businesses that she must work with to continue publishing the excellent magazine we all enjoy. If you or your affiliate can make a donation to the Booster Fund designated for the Editor's computer, we can make the upgrades necessary.

Statistics prove you and many others make many visits to our website. It contains a lot of information and photos that have helped many make a possible identification of their grandmother's violet. If you have tried ordering supplies or renewing your membership from the website, you know it is not the easiest thing you have done.

We have told you of new software available that would greatly improve our website. We have asked for funds and have posted the progress on the site. The cost is beyond the means of AVSA in today's economy. James Rubottom, Chairman of the Internet Committee has submitted requests for proposals for the upgrading of the current website. We have had a couple of proposals returned with reasonable costs for the benefits received. We have already had over $1,000 donated towards the previous goal of $30,000. With the proposals coming in, we should be able to make our website greatly improved and easier for you to conduct business with AVSA. The cost will be less than one third the previous estimates. If we can get another $5,000 donated we can get started with this project. One of the most requested benefits is a Member's Only section where you will have access to photos and articles not available to non-members.

A falling stock market, record unemployment, and a lack of security about our financial situation tomorrow, is not a good time to ask for money. Those of us who are retired are missing our dividend checks and, sadly, the increase in our social security checks is not noticeable. What will make this possible is for many of us to donate $5, $10, or $20. One hundred members donating $20 will provide the editor a new computer. Twenty dollars should be possible even with our economic problems. Please consider making a gift to help AVSA improve our technology and service to you.

In Memory

Marion Mossberg

Marion joined the Union Country New Jersey African Violet Society in 1974 and served in many offices and as show co-chairman. In addition to growing and showing horticulture entries in shows, she was a talented designer and won many awards for her artistic ability. When Marion and her husband moved to Delaware, she joined the Delaware African Violet Society and continued her active service in various offices and working with the annual flower show. While her illness prevented her from having an active role in the DAVS for the last few years, Marion continued to grow beautiful African violets, and her family brought these to her funeral. Even the priest remarked on what lovely plants Marion had grown. She will be missed by her friends in Delaware and New Jersey.

Hazel M. Hutchison

By David Harris

Hazel passed away in October 2008. She was 82. Hazel was an AVSA Judge for many years, and held office in several clubs. Instead of listing the many clubs, I am listing the cities where she worked before she retired in 1987. Anchorage, Alaska; Elizabethtown, Kentucky; Bernalillo, New Mexico (Rio Rancho area); Lawton, Oklahoma; Newport News, Virginia; Willard, Missouri (Springfield area).

I enjoyed the many visits we had, and she helped me at the Fair sales table several times. One of the "Ozark" Sinningias I let her name was 'Ozark Rosy Tiger.' I miss Hazel very much.

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith, The Indiana Academy

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One of the advantages of today's internet age is that folks can send pictures of new flowers and plants for me along with their questions. Sometimes the pictures are exciting evidence of a new type of plant or flower, but other times they are not. The questions in this column are examples.

Q: Is it possible to combine wasp and bell flowers together?

A: This question came from a hybridizer who wondered if some of the offspring between a cross of bell flowers and wasp flowers where showing the combination of wasp and bell traits together. After reviewing his pictures, I believe he has accomplished the combination of the bell flower shape and wasp petals into the same flower. The flowers are a bell shape in general outline, and all of the petals are the same length. The petals are narrow and appear to be strongly divided as seen in wasp flowers. They do not flare back from the flower center, but arch over the center of the flower. The combination looks like a highly ruffled bell flower until you realize that the petals are indeed separated from each other for over half instead of being fused along their length as is typical for bell flowers.

Based on this combination, it may be time to interpret the wasp flower a little differently than has been done historically. Hybridizers have generally listed the shapes of African violet flowers as pansy (wild type or violet shape), star, bell, and wasp. It may be more accurate to think of wasp as not being a "shape", but as a way of describing the width of the petals. Wasp flowers would have very narrow petals as compared to the broad petal width as seen in non-wasp flowers. If viewed this way, wasp "petal width" could easily be combined with any of the flower "shapes" such as pansy, star and bell. For example, most of our traditional "wasp flowers" could be described as pansy shape and wasp narrow petals. There are also a few star shaped flowers with wasp narrow petals out there. A hybridizer should then be able to combine wasp petal width with bell shape such has been done by this hybridizer.

I would suggest that hybridizers slightly alter their master list of dominant/recessive traits in the following way: Wasp/narrow petals is the dominant trait. Regular/wide petals is the recessive trait.

Q: I recently saw a plant with very large spots of white scattered on a blue flower. Is this a new form of puff fantasy?

A: This question came to me from a person in the Ukraine, and she was able to share a picture and additional information about the plant in question. The flowers were blue with large spots of white scattered across the petals, and the combination was quite striking. However, the spots had very sharp borders, not the usual blending of colors as seen in puff fantasy. The spots were also very irregular in shape instead of being circles as is usually the case for puff fantasy. I learned that the flowers were variable depending on the bloom cycle and growing temperature. In one bloom cycle, the flowers were mostly white with small areas of blue edging.

Based on the variability of the flower, I don't think the plant is showing a new type of puff fantasy, but extreme shifts of colored edging. The writer was obviously disappointed that this wasn't something new, but I do congratulate her for keeping her eyes open and checking out a possible new flower trait.

Q: If I can get a friend to expose some African violet seeds to X-rays at her medical office, will I get any new plants? Will the seeds be radioactive?

A: There have been several reports over the years of individuals who have exposed African violet seeds or rooting leaves to X-rays in the hope of producing new plants. Most of the time, the results are disappointing, but one or two useful plants have been produced this way. One of the more recent successes was the production of variegated *Streptocarpus*. These lovely plants have had considerable improvement since their introduction and are now shown regularly at AVSA shows.

I doubt that you'll produce anything satisfying with X-rays, but it could make for an interesting project. The seeds will not be radioactive. X-rays cause their effect by breaking up and damaging the DNA, but they are not a type of radiation that will make other objects like seeds radioactive.

Q: What would be the best flower colors to cross together if I wanted to get as many different colors in the offspring as possible?

A: I would suggest that you cross two different colors, one that is more on the recessive side of flower colors in African violets and the other more on the dominant side. For example, one of the parents could be white or pink for the recessive colors. For the dominant colored parent, I would stay away from a dark blue which is the most dominant color, but a nice red-violet or lavender flower should work well. These colors are on the dominant side of the color

spectrum, but both are blends and carry a recessive color as well. Red-violets are a blue and red blend while lavender is a blue and pink blend. By using blends, you should have a good chance of getting recessive and dominant colors to show up in the offspring.

Try to use parents that are medium shades of their type. The amount of flower pigment is a dosage controlled trait, and medium shades represent a single dose of pigment. When two medium shades are crossed, they can recombine into very pale, medium, and dark shades in all your colors.

If one parent has visible coral pigments and the other is a carrier for coral, you'll add another level of color possibilities to your offspring. However, unless you know the exact genotype of the carrier plant, it may be impossible to tell if it carries the coral factor as a recessive.

These ideas should give a good variety of colors in your offspring. You might consider adding in some of the pattern traits such as Geneva edges, raspberry edges, or fantasy, but I don't think these traits will add much to your overall mixture of colors.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger • 2822 So. Mainsail Dr. • Avon Park, FL 33825-6032

Contributions: September 16, 2008 – November 15, 2008

Geneva

Jeri Anderson, Tucson, AZ
For the website upgrade
Ellen E Bloomfield, Round Lake, IL
Bergen County African Violet Society, New Jersey
In memory of our member, Frank Senna
Ohio State African Violet Society
For the website upgrade
Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society
In memory of Nancy Horan

Multicolored

African Violet Club of Burlington County, NJ
In memory of Frank Senna, a friend of our club since its beginning twenty years ago.
For the website upgrade
African Violet Club of Ocala, FL
For the website upgrade
Gwen Goodship-Patience, Berkshire, England
Adrienne Topping, Hampton, VA
For the website upgrade
Windy City Indoor Gardeners and The Greater Chicago Branch of The American Begonia Society
In lieu of speakers' fee

Two-tone

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Corpus Christi African Violet Society, TX
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For the website upgrade
Ms. Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA
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In memory of Frank Senna
Spent Blossoms of Mid- Polk County, FL
In memory of Lucille Griffin, "one of us"
Tristate African Violet Council, NJ, PA,
In lieu of judge's travel expenses/Laurel Brown, Karyn Cichocki, Kay Rotando, Claire Schirtzer
For the website upgrade
Union County Chapter AVSA, NJ
In memory of Marion Mossberg and Jean Peters, former club members, and Frank Senna, a frequent judge for our shows

Thumbprint

Carol Carpenter, Ocala, FL
Jean Corkill, Salinas, CA
Randy G Deutsch, Sioux Falls, SD
In memory of Lois Daugereau, Jenny Daugereau's mother in law
In memory of Martin Peyton, Jenny Daugereau's father
Jo E. Jeane, Leesville, LA
Jan Murasko, Milltown, NJ
In memory of Frank Senna (For the website upgrade)
North Star African Violet Council, MN
Jack Rodgers, Philadelphia, PA
Website Improvement Fund: $595.08
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: $1275.50

Note: In the January-February, 2008 AVM issue, the designation for the website upgrade was omitted in the listing of the Central Jersey donation. My apologies. SLB

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck

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Multicolored

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Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM
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Two-tone

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Thumbprint

Gail Podany

Total this period - $ 285.00

"And the winners are . . ."

By Mary J. Corondan

434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

Email: mcorondan@yahoo.com

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Ohio Friendship, Lillian Jarrett, Vintage Wine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Rob's Snake Charmer, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Standard: Buckeye Ohio Friendship; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Chris Hedberg.** Best in Show/Best Trailer: Stickey Spring Trail, **Gini McCanne.** Best Miniature: Jolly Gala, **Hans Inpijn.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Barbara Burde.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Stardust', **Nancy Di Paola.** Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox.**

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Mad Cat, That's Show Biz; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave, **Phyllis Haggerty.** Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ted Bona' seedling, **Elizabeth Gottshall.** Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Elizabeth Branson.** Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Marianne Gershon.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Judith Smith.**

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Buckeye Candy Kisses, King David; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Richard Nicholas.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Rob's Zoot Suit, Rob's Combustible Pigeon; Best Miniature: Shirl's Hawaiian Lei, **Anne Nicholas.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Spin-out, Heartbreak Kid, Rob's Dandy Lion, **Penny Smith-Kerker.** Best Semiminiature: Shirl's Blue Passion; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design, **Delores Gibbs.** Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia araneosa*, **Beverly Powers.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius.**

MID AMERICA AVS, KS – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Annabelle, Favorite Child, Wild Irish Rose; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Pat Inbody.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Missouri Pride, Ma's Lily Pad, Optimara Trinidad; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Little Pro, Rob's Macho Devil; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou; Best Standard: California Berries; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Canning.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Design Sweepstakes, **Shirley Faris.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Salmon Sunset', **Barbara Miller.** Best Design, **Raymond Russell.**

MID ATLANTIC AVS, VA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Zima Ulybaetsia, Sizzlin' Romance, Sweet Tea; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Plumberry Glow, Irish Nights; Best Standard: Pink Dream, **Marie Burns.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Dean's Cupid, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Rob's Lucky Penny, **Tom Greer.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #7, **Jodi Du Pont.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn', **LaDonna Hopson.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Olive Ma Robinson.**

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Powwow, Grandmother's Halo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Grandmother's Halo; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Kevin Degner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Wewonchu, Optimara Illusion, Kris; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit, **Arlene Garvens.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Orchid, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Marty Anderson.** Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grotei*, **Cathy Heider.** Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Mengsol.**

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Candy Kisses, Buckeye Leprechaun Charm, Funambule; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Optimara Little Moonstone, Persian Prince; Best in Show/Best Standard: Annabelle; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Kent Stork.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silverglade Streams, Sansoucy' Julie-Marie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Adrienne Rieck.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Rosalie, Rob's Twinkle Blue, Toy Castle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Slap Happy, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard.** Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Judy Carter.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Heartland's Baby Egrets', **Dale Martens.** Best Design, **Mary Jo Bradley.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jeanne Cotton.**

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alliance, Ness' Candy Pink, Picasso; Best in Show: Alliance, **Marcia Shaver.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best

Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Sunset Orange', Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox.** Best Design, **Barbara Burde.**

SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF TACOMA, WA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bad Bunny, Rob's Jitterbug, Storytella's White Swan; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Slap Happy; Best Standard: B-Man's Ragusa; Best Miniature: Rob's Bad Bunny; Best Trailer: Ramblin'Lassie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis* Uppsala Clone #3397; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Clark.** Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia araneosa*, **Peter Shalit.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Shandrow.**

TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Seductress, Jersey Snow Flakes, Ma's Lily Pad; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jersey Sugar Plums, Irish Flirt, Rob's Pink Buttercup; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Seductress; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Planet Kid; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolooroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen In Time, Rhapsodie Mary, Optimara North Carolina II, **Ron Ennis.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha rupicola*, **Aliscia Belyo.** Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx lynchii*, **Karyn Chichocki.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko.**

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Debutante, Ma's Soiree, Suncoast Lavender Silk; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ma's Debutante; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Helen Maran.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Scrumptious, Ma's Lily Pad, Lucien Croteau; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Dean's Faded Rose, Teen Thunder; Best Semiminiature: Heinz's Little Nugget; Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku, Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Broget Stavanger'; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King.** Best Design, **Glenn Shelton.**

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Grandmother's Halo, Powwow, Kev's Heavenly Star; Best in Show/Best Standard: Grandmother's Halo; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Orange Sherbet', **Kevin Degner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kris, Annabelle, Smooch Me; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Alice Peterson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Heat Wave, **Dick Anderson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Optimara Rose Quartz, Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Marty Anderson.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Nancy Braun.** Best Miniature: Tiny Tim, **Mary Shellman.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bill Greider.** Best Design, **Arlene Garvens.** Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Arlene Garvens and Ruth Mengsol.**

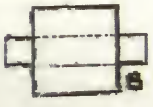
Convention Purchases and a Solution

By Paul Kroll

When we travel to conventions by air, bringing home the purchases we have made can be a problem. The solution was provided to me and other Gesneriad Society attendees years ago by Jon Dixon from California. The diagrams should help you to construct a bag such as this for your own use.

Use a sturdy shopping bag with rope handles [A], and secure the handles with packing tape so that they will remain attached and strong. Other reinforcements to the bag itself may be done, should you wish to ensure the strength of the bag itself.

Take a piece of strong corrugated card board and cut it [B] according to your bag's measurements in the shape suggested. Fold along dotted lines so that when the flaps are raised, they will form sides to strengthen the bottom of the bag.



The bag and the cardboard insert may be folded flat to carry in your suitcase and assembled when you are ready to use it.

Your purchased plants can be set in the bag and are safe and sound, especially if they are sleeved in plastic such as Lyon's and Rob's usually are. Baggies of cuttings may be placed on top of the sleeved plants and will ride just fine. If you are concerned about crushing anything, you can also take along some cardboard tubes from aluminum foil or paper towels. When cut to the required height/length, they can be stood in the plant tray you have created and will even support a second layer!

The top of the bag may be folded over and will still fit in the overhead bins on the aircraft. I have even laid the bag on its side to fit it into the overhead bin and everything arrived home just fine.

I hope this solves your dilemma of bringing home those purchased plants and cuttings from conventions far away from home. I have attended many distant conventions and used my bag over and over again. I hope it works for you.

From *The Empire Violet*, publication of the New York State African Violet Society, Inc.

By Cheryl Salatino

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The Water Dilemma

To water or not to water... that is the question

Many questions arise when it comes to the best practices of watering. There is no hard and fast rule. Every grower has a personal preference. Yet, we still question each other about how much water, how often, what method, what temperature, whether local tap water is okay – and the questions go on.

Before I got serious about growing African violets, watering seemed so easy. I watered once per week on Sunday mornings. I used tap water and added a liquid fertilizer, if I remembered. The plants were top watered and seemed happy enough. You may ask, how did I know that the plants were happy? Well, they bloomed! And yes, there were some marks and culture changes that I didn't understand, but the plants and I were content. That's when a little extra knowledge can become a dangerous thing.

Once I learned more about how to "successfully" grow African violets, I discovered that there were several choices in the how to get water to your plants. I'm sure many of you reading this article have tried one or even all of these methods. A lot depends upon how many plants you care for and how much time you have to spend on routine watering. Instead of extolling the values of each technique, let me briefly explain when I think these methods work effectively and move on to understanding the impact that water, and the lack thereof, has on the culture of your plants.

Watering Basics: A Primer

As with any approach you take in growing plants, you must make sure that it works well in **your** growing environment. Each method has its pros and cons. However, watering is all about getting to know your plants. One simple rule of thumb seems so obvious. When in doubt, pick up the pot. Feeling how light or heavy the plant feels can give you a clue as to how often water may be needed. Getting a feel for a well-watered plant, versus one that needs a drink, helps you keep track of how quickly water is being used.

Top Watering – a simple method for those of us who don't believe the old wives tale that African violets shouldn't be watered this way. Top watering is best performed if it can be done over a sink or tub. That way, the excess water runs through the pot and doesn't remain in the saucer. Unfortunately, most of us don't have a sink at our disposal each time we water. It's more than likely that excess water will collect in the saucers. Just remember to go back and empty any unused water after an hour, because African violets don't like wet feet. Also, dab up any water drops that may have spilled on the foliage or in the crown. By doing so, you will prevent marks and spots developing on the foliage later.

Bottom Watering – an excellent method to allow the plant to take up the water it needs. The drawback here is the fact that you may not get enough water to the root system. Much depends on the relationship of the saucer to the pot. If it's a tight fit, there's not much space for water. If it's too large, there's often excess water left behind. When using this method, it's best to monitor how much water is being absorbed each time you water. If the pot feels too light after its initial drink, try adding a bit more water to the saucer. Again, remember to remove excess water that the plant hasn't used after one hour.

Wick Watering – this is a method where a little preparation goes a long way. Choosing the material of the wick is essential. Some materials take up more water than others. I've had the most success with thin strips of pantyhose. I find that once the wick is in place, all it takes is some water from the top to help begin the capillary action. Many folks are creative about the water reservoirs – I've seen everything from clear plastic containers with a hole cut in the lid to cut-off soda bottles. Keeping the water reservoirs filled ensures your plants can draw water as needed. Watch out for a couple of changes when wick watering. If the plant seems to take up significantly less water than normal, make sure the wick is operating properly. A wick that dries out may need to be restarted. Pour water from the top until the wick drips water, and it should be good to go again. If the plant remains too wet, consider lightening up the potting soil or changing the wicking material.

Mat Watering – this approach offers one of the fastest means of getting water to multiple plants at the same time. When I first attempted this method, I

thought it would be much quicker to have a tray of plants taken care of in one watering action. I found out there's no free lunch. Good contact with the mat is critical. To achieve good contact, the bottom of the pot must rest flat on the surface of the mat. Some people also wick their plants to be sure. The mat should remain consistently moist to ensure capillary action. That means that when you water, the mat must be consistently wet – but not submerged in water. Keeping the mats clean is important too. Remove dirt, fertilizer salts, and algae by washing the mats and trays on a periodic basis.

Self Watering Pots – a method that blends the best of bottom watering with individual plant attention. Those of you that are familiar with my articles know that I am partial to Oyama pots. I found that the performance of my plants improved with the more consistent method of accessing water. Today there are many styles of self watering pots. Experiment with a few to see if this is a choice for you. However, this method is not for everybody. While self-watering pots offer many positive results, all problems with over and under watering do not magically disappear. The potting mix used does make the difference. Just like wick watering, you must prepare a lighter soil mix so the plant takes up the water it needs without sitting in a soggy pot. Also, plants can dry out if not monitored. In a self watering pot, you typically don't see how much water remains in the reservoir because the outer pot is opaque.

The Error of Our Ways

We control many aspects of our growing environments. When it comes to water, we have to work a bit smarter to gain more control. Here are a few things to monitor and gain a better understanding to assess the impact on your plants.

- **Water Temperature.**
  The temperature of the water used can affect the culture of the plant. African violets don't like cold water. You may see their reaction in the foliage later. Use water that feels slightly warm to the touch or has been standing at room temperature. During colder months, I find water temperature more of a challenge. I typically leave my water in containers overnight before use. At room temperature, the water feels cold. Instead, I have made a bit of room on my growing shelves to enable the water to take advantage of the warmth generated by the lights. My plants seem to enjoy the change.
- **Water Quality.**
  Most of us prefer to use local tap water as our water source. Every community has very different water quality. It's an interesting adventure to try to understand what your water contains. Today, there are fluorides and chlorine in much of our country's water supply. However, each part of the country has unique amounts of other minerals and compounds. Check your local water authority to learn more about your water quality. African violets like a soft water that has no chlorine present. To eliminate chlorine content, let water stand overnight in a container to allow gases to evaporate. As for some of the other minerals that may be lurking, monitor your plant behavior before taking action. There are alternatives for improving water quality including the use of bottled spring water or specific systems to treat the water. Before heading in this direction, make sure you match your water situation to the plants' needs. A local Agricultural Extension service may be able to assist in identifying a workable solution.
- **Water pH.**
  Are you aware of your water's pH? Most of us have never measured it. Yet, African violets require a neutral pH around 7.0. Our local African violet club decided to try to figure this out for ourselves. We each brought a sample of fertilized water and tested it by using a small kit available (typically found at the local garden center or pet store). Wow, what we found! We all live in close proximity, yet the results were all over the spectrum – some too alkaline and many too acidic. What we learned was that our local water is directly affected by the amount of fertilizer we use. Measuring the unfertilized water as well as the fertilized solution enabled us to understand what we had to work with. Check out your water with the various fertilizers you use – it's a fascinating exercise. From there you can make any needed adjustments.
- **Fertilizer – a brief note.**
  This is a topic that requires much more discussion. However, when adding fertilizer to water, be sure you consider the watering method. Wick watering and self watering methods provide much more access to water and fertilizer. Avoid over-fertilization by reducing the amount of fertilizer used. I often use 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water for the self watering pots.
- **Symptoms of a Problem.**
  The toughest problem to decipher is whether a plant is getting too much or too little water. A wilting plant can be a result of either. If the pot is heavy and the plant is drooping, there's an obvious diagnosis. If you are unsure, add water sparingly to determine how the plant responds. Plants that have been under-watered are experiencing a different stress. When most of us find a plant in that situation, we give it a healthy drink. However, the plant can't take up much water when it's in a drought condition.

Avoid that healthy drink and apply a small amount of water to revive the plant. Go back the next day, when the plant has perked up, and water it more completely.

As you can see, there is too much information on water and watering techniques to truly absorb. Lots more can be discussed on many of the topics just covered. Of course, all growing is a combination of factors. There is a direct relationship in the amount of water being used to the amount of light exposure, climate in the growing area, maturity of the plant's root system, pot size, and more. That's why it's important to get to know your plants individually. If you need to group like sizes together to make it easier to manage, then start there.

As you can see, watering is a big part of what we do for our plants. It's simple and complex at the same time. If you decide to try a new method, please remember to start with one or two plants. Making wholesale changes in your growing practices can produce devastating results. That's why I began this article by explaining that each one of us must be sure things work well in our specific growing environment. I encourage you to try new techniques in your quest to grow beautiful and happy African violets.

Grow smart. Grow well.

Saintpaulia: Growing for Show

By Doris Brownlie

Does the plant grow well to show? Is it a symmetrical grower? Does it have gaps showing or is it compact?

Does it produce an abundance of bloom? Is the bloom long lasting? Does it form a nice "halo" or "head?"

Does the foliage shape up naturally or does it need "propping" or "pegging?"

Does the foliage keep its condition or do the leaves have a tendency to pale or develop brown spots?

Is it a "show-proven" plant? (Check published show results for names of plants winning regularly.)

Potting Up

A show plant is usually the strongest one in a clump. Plant that one in a 2 1/2" pot.

When the 2 1/2" plant leaves have extended 2/3 past the pot's edge, it should be potted up to a 4" pot.

Throughout the entire growing period, give plants consistent care, i.e. water and fertilize regularly.

Plants may be shown in 4" pots quite successfully, and will quickly develop to flowering stage. If you wish to disbud, follow the timetable described in the paragraph on disbudding (below.)

Timing

If you wish to grow larger show plants, the following schedule will help. When 4" plant is at flowering stage; 2/3 past the edge of pot, it is ready for a larger pot. (5" or 6" bulb pan.)

Note

If your show is in mid-April you should have your plant into its final-size pot around mid-November.

If your show is in mid-May, you should have your plant in its final-size pot mid-December.

Disbudding

Initially remove all blossoms and buds from your plant and thereafter remove buds.

Disbud for the last time approximately seven weeks before your show date. (May vary according to individual growing conditions. Experimenting with a particular variety will help determine the exact timing.)

Grooming Checklist

- Is my plant in the appropriate size pot? Approximately 2/3 of the plant should extend beyond the pot diameter. (Points are deducted for over or under potting.)
- Has my plant retained its symmetry of form? (It should resemble the spokes of a wheel, having no large gaps, and no small lower leaves covered by higher leaves.)
- Is there sufficient bloom on the plant? This will vary with each variety, but quantity should be adequate in relation to leaf spread.
- Have I cut off spent blossoms? (Cut them close to peduncle. Don't leave them on, as points will be deducted from plant score by judges.)
- Have I removed suckers that may be on the plant?
- Is there a neck on the plant from lower leaves having been removed? Place lower in pot before showing.)
- Have I checked that the plant does not have an insect pest or disease of any kind?
- Have I removed all support from the plant? (Supports include plastic picks, toothpicks, collars, wire, etc.)
- Have I removed dust and soil particles from leaves? (Use an animal hair brush, never nylon.)
- Have I removed white mineral or insecticide stain from leaves? (One tablespoon of vinegar to a quart of water and used with a Q Tip will do the job ... even "spit" on a Q Tip works.)
- Does my plant have sufficient water in soil to stand up through the show? (Watering one day before with "Sturdy" helps 1 teaspoon to a gallon.)
- Are some flowers hidden by foliage? (Ease them up slowly and carefully above leaves.)

From the *Newsletter* of the Toronto Gesneriad Society

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

ACA's Georgene

Exhibited by: ***Beverley Williams***

Hybridized by: J. Brownlie

Semiminiature

To scrape or not to scrape, that is the question.

Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities
Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47304

From time to time, it is necessary to restart an African violet through stem tip cuttings. One may have a rosette plant that has grown too long a neck and needs to be started over, or one may wish to take a cutting off a trailer. In either event, it is necessary to get the stem tip cutting to grow new roots. There are a number of different ideas on rooting the cuttings. Conventional wisdom says one should scrape away the outer tissues or bark on the stem in order to stimulate root development. Another method suggests using a rooting powder containing plant hormones to simulate root growth. But which method is best? Or would a combination of scraping and rooting powder together be even better? The purpose of this article is to report on the results of an experiment to test the affects of scraping and rooting powder on root development of African violet stem tip cuttings.

This experiment was conducted as a project by the Horticulture class at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities. Thirty-six stem tip cuttings were taken from a single large trailing specimen of *Saintpaulia ionantha* subspecies *grotei* clone Mather V (5b. cl. Mather V). Because the cuttings were from a single plant, genetic variation should not be a factor in the experiment. The cuttings were trimmed to a length of 3-4 cm and were stripped of flowers and all but the youngest 3-4 leaves. In most cases, a bare stem of at least 1-2 cm remained below the leaves.

The cuttings were randomly divided among four treatments. The treatments were: 1) control, 2) scraped, 3) rooting power and 4) scraped with rooting powder. The control cuttings did not receive any further treatment. The scraped cuttings had the outermost layer of tissue removed from the oldest leaf down to the cut edge using a razor blade and/or finger nails. The rooting powder used was Bontone Rooting Powder made by Bonide. The rooting powder was applied by dipping the stem into the powder and gently shaking to remove the access.

The cuttings were planted in an artificial soil mix consisting predominantly of peat moss with some perlite and vermiculite (approximately 3:1:1 ratio). The cuttings were individually rooted in two ounce Dixie cups that had been hole punched for drainage. The cuttings were placed in a tray, watered in, and covered with a humidity dome. The cuttings were placed under four foot fluorescent shop light with two 40 watt cool white bulbs. A timer was used to set the lights for 12-hour day and 12-hour night cycles. Reverse osmosis water was added to the cuttings as needed over the duration of the experiment to keep them moist.

The cuttings were allowed to grow for two weeks, and then two plants from each treatment were taken out for a preliminary check of root development. One week later, the remaining 28 cuttings were harvested. The soil was washed from the roots, and pictures were taken for a visual comparison of the treatments. To quantitatively compare the amount of root material, the roots from each cutting were removed using a razor blade and placed in labeled aluminum foil packets. The roots were dried at 100 degrees Celsius for two days, and the dry weight of each cutting was recorded. A statistical test called an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted on the dried root data to detect differences between the treatments.

The preliminary comparison of the cuttings at two weeks suggested that the control and the hormone powder treatments had about the same amount of roots. In comparison to the control, the scraped with hormone had few roots and the scraped cuttings had almost no roots at all.

Root growth and development was more extensive in all treatments when the remaining cuttings were harvested a week later. Variation in the amount of root material was observed between cuttings within a treatment and between treatments. Table 1 shows the average dry weight of the roots for each treatment. The control plants clearly had the highest amount of root material as compared to all the other treatments with an average of 0.138g. The second highest amount of root material was seen in the rooting powder treatment, but the average amount of 0.071g is only about half that of the control treatment. Scraping appeared to greatly hinder root development with the amount of root material (0.025g) being less than 25% of the control. The addition of the rooting powder to scraped stems increased the average amount of roots only slightly (0.030g). The ANOVA statistical test showed that the average dry weights of the roots of the treatments were significantly different at the P=.05 level. This means that we can be 95% sure that the differences observed between the treatments are due to the treatments of the experiment and not due to random chance. Although there were variations between the replicates within a treatment, the results of the experiment clearly indicate that leaving the stem tips alone as in the control treatment gave the best rooting results as measured by dry root weight.

The results are reinforced by observations that the scraped cuttings usually produced roots on the stem areas up around the leaves where the stems had not been scraped. The areas of the stem that had been scraped were often totally devoid of

any roots. Scraping appeared to inhibit rather than stimulate new root growth.

Based on the results of this experiment, the question to scrape or not to scrape would seem to be answered by the latter; don't scrape the stems. The best root growth and development in this experiment was seen in the control treatment cuttings that had nothing done to them except to strip off the oldest leaves and all the flowers. The results are contrary to conventional wisdom and were surprising to the investigators. However, we feel confident that similar results would be obtained if cuttings were rooted from any other trailing African violet. We are not confident that the same results would be seen in rosette plants, especially older stems covered with more "bark" material. A similar experiment to this one should be conducted with rosette plants to test the scraping question. What works best for rooting stem tip cuttings for one type of African violet might not necessary work best for other types and should be tested by experimentation.

Acknowledgements – thanks to the members of the Horticulture class for their time and work in conducting this experiment.

Table 1.
Average root dry weight in grams by treatment

Control – 0.138
Scraped – 0.025
Rooting Powder – 0.071
Scraped and Rooting Powder – 0.030

AVSA OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

BREAKING NEWS - NEW DATE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The **Dixie African Violet Society's** annual convention will be **MAY 13-16, 2009** at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The local club is very excited about the place, and the new date and is already making plans for another great convention. The hotel will start celebrating their 100th anniversary when we are there, and we have some surprises for all.
For more information, please contact-Kathy Spissman, Convention Director, 770-939-5289 or mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net

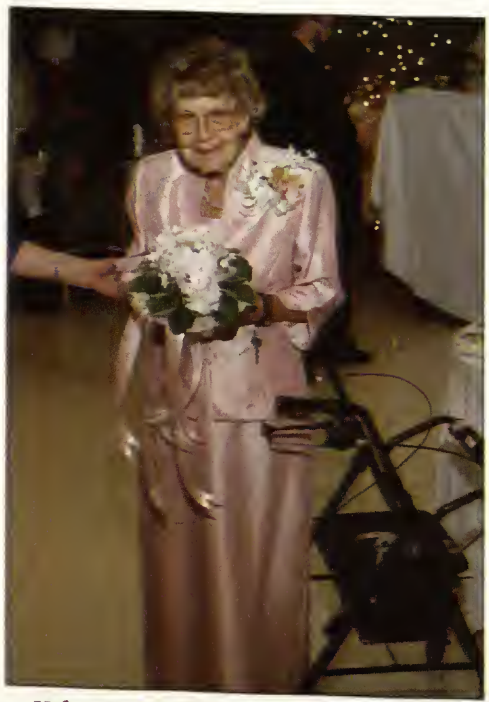
SO MARK THAT DATE
WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE CHOO CHOO!!!

Wedding Violets

By Anne Nicholas

Photos by: Tom and Libbie Glombicki

Mary Craig as a bridal bouquet on the plant stand at the home of Anne and Richard Nicholas.



Helen Mahr Nicholas holds the Maid of Honor bouquet "Lonestar Helen Mahr" at her granddaughter's wedding.

Our daughter, Laura, grew up with African violets all around her. In Tennessee, she learned to crawl among violets in the window. Then we moved to San Antonio, TX, and she and her friends played around violets which by then had grown to a collection that needed two plant stands. Violets were the subject of her science fair exhibits in middle school. By the time she was in high school in Indiana, the room across the hall from her room was full of only violets. Then came college, graduate school, and a first 'real job.' She had a couple of violets that she would ask her dad to re-pot at each visit. A move to Kansas for a new job also led her to meet Brian. They became engaged, and set a wedding date. It was natural and no big surprise that Laura wanted herself and her attendants to carry African violets.

Laura and Brian for the first time as Mr. & Mrs. begin their walk into a new life. Laura is carrying the African Violet "Mary Craig" and Brian's boutonniere contains Mary Craig blossoms and leaves.

Bridesmaid Mackenzie poses with the wedding bouquet "Buckeye Beauty" in front of the Nicholas plant stand.

Groom Brian poses with the bridesmaids and the African Violet Bouquets. From left to right, Buckeye Beauty, Frozen in Time and Lonestar Helen Mahr.

"Frozen in Time" all dressed up in lace, ribbons and beads ready to be a bridal bouquet.

The groom's boutonniere consisted of blossoms from Mary Craig surrounding a single rose placed over Mary Craig leaves.

(continued on page 30)

The wedding was set for early December. We identified a group of eight smaller standards that we would grow for the bridal and the three attendant bouquets. The attendant dresses were a dark purple so Laura said she would like to carry a violet whose blossoms would closely match the attendants' dress color. We decided on the plant, 'Mary Craig', to be the bridal bouquet violet. The Maid of Honor wanted a pink violet, her favorite color. That plant would be Lonestar 'Helen Mahr', a pink and white plant hybridized by Richard and named after his mom. The other two plants were not immediately decided. We would wait to see what came into bloom at the right moment. In the early summer, we put this group of plants on a 'grow to show' schedule.

Now the big job was to design a 'bouquet' that would encompass the entire potted plant. Richard and I grow our plants in white plastic pots which would have to be disguised. I decided to make 'lace baskets' that would fit around each pot. The basket would have a space into which to place the pot, an edge that would serve as a support for the leaves, and would provide a surface texture that would not be as likely to slip when being held. Richard identified the pot sizes that would be matches for the plants being considered. Using lace fabric and "Stiffy," I made a variety of baskets with the largest being able to fit around a 41/2" pot, the size of 'Mary Craig's' pot.

As the wedding became closer, we watched closely the blooming of the plants – which were going to be 'the ones?' At this point, the process was much like watching plants coming into bloom on a show schedule. We had two 'Mary Craig' violets; one was totally out of consideration, placing our hopes on the remaining one. 'Lonestar Helen Mahr' was looking great, but the other two were still a mystery. I don't know how many times we stood in front on our plant stands, peering to see if buds were appearing. The deadline of a wedding is worse than the deadline of a show! After much consideration, we decided that Buckeye 'Beauty', and 'Frozen in Time' would complete the quartet of plants.

As with any show plant, I knew that I would have to slip pot the plants. The slip pot became the pot to which I attached the ribbon streamers. Because each set of ribbon streamers complemented the blossom colors of each individual violet, each bouquet would be a different color. I also made ribbon and rhinestone inserts to be placed among the blossoms of each violet. These inserts would enhance the color of the blossoms and would add a little sparkle to each bouquet. The three bridesmaids' bouquets were similar in size; growing in 31/2 pots. The bride's bouquet was larger. I also made a silk bouquet that would become the 'throwing' bouquet. Everything was ready for the big day.

On the morning of the wedding day, we trimmed the wicks of the plants so they would not be too bulky in the slip pot. I trimmed the lace baskets to be similar to the circumference of the plants. The blooming plants were then placed into the slip pots that already had ribbon streamers. I used double sided Velcro to stick the lace basket to the slip pot to keep them together as they were tilted and carried down the aisle. The sparkly ribbon inserts were carefully placed between the blossoms and down into the soil. The results were four very different, very lovely bouquets.

We were so proud to have our hobby be a part of our daughter's very special day. Not only did the bride and attendants carry African violets, but we also used eleven 'Streptocarpus' varieties as centerpieces for each table at the reception. Not one plant met its demise or was thrown away. In today's 'green' thinking, it was a great way to reduce, re-use, and recycle. Not only are the bride and groom happily married, but all of the wedding flowers are happily growing back on our shelves.

Editor's Note: For how-to instructions, see "Potted African Violets as a Wedding Bouquet" on page 51.

AVSA Affiliates

Lynne Wilson, *Affiliates Committee*
645 Hudson Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33606
Email: wilsonav@tampabay.rr.com

You Are Invited: Affiliates Breakfast

Learn How to increase the Odds for making your club more successful.

The Affiliates Committee is all about the caring and sharing of club and AVSA information. In organizations, **meetings** are an important vehicle for personal contact. They are so common and pervasive in organizations, however, that many take them for granted and forget that unless properly planned and executed, meetings can be a waste of time and resources. The focus of the affiliates breakfast meeting in Reno will be how to make your meetings more successful. AVSA has many Diamonds, as well as Hearts in our membership, with many thoughts and ideas we can learn from. Many have learned how to make their meetings more interesting and informative for their members. Learn and share with us in Reno and make your reservations for the AVSA Affiliates Breakfast on Thursday, April 16, 2009. The breakfast begins at 7:45 and the meeting will start at 8:30.

Hope to see you there!
Lynne

Managing Your Collection: How Many Is Too Many?

By Sharon Rosenzweig

Many novice African violet growers make the mistake of adding too many plants or leaves to their collection before they have enough knowledge to handle a large amount of violets. It is hard to resist the temptation to have as many plants as you can when you first discover the vast variety of named African violets.

Most seasoned growers are very generous and a new grower can be the recipient of many African violet leaves and plants. However, caring for them all can become overwhelming and the collection as a whole will suffer. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind:

Determine how much room you have for growing plants. Consider the space required for each full grown plant. If space is limited, you might consider growing semi-miniatures. You really don't have the space to grow them all! It is better to grow a few plants successfully than many plants which will suffer from lack of care.

First, master the art of propagating from leaves. Practice on your "no-names" before ordering a bunch of leaves from a commercial. At first, you may be tempted to save all the plantlets. Select the hardiest two or three plantlets and toss the rest or give them away.

Culling is also important in deciding which plants really appeal to you. If you are not impressed with a variety of African violet, or it is not growing well in your conditions, compost it or find it a new home. You will then have room to devote to the varieties you really like.

It is important to be able to recognize the symptoms of disease and pest infestations. Make sure to isolate any new plants from your collection so they don't spread whatever they many bring with them. If you can't identify a pest or disease problem early on, it can wipe out your entire collection.

You will need to decide how many plants you can happily give the care they require. If you find you are not enjoying the work involved in keeping your plants looking healthy and beautiful, then you have too many!

My advice for those new to this hobby is to limit your collection to no more than a couple dozen until you are experienced in all aspects of African violet care. You will then be able to know how many plants you can keep without being overwhelmed. Remember, growing African violets should be a fun hobby, not a tiresome chore.

When thinking about how many is too many, consider that the current edition of the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars compiled by The African Violet Society of America, lists over 13,000 cultivar descriptions, all recognized species, and registered cultivars from the inception of registration in 1949!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - *Chairman* • **35 Ridge Point Dr.** • **Chesterfield, MO 63017**

1 December 2008 to 31 January 2009

Two-tone

First AVS of Denton Texas
In lieu of judge's fee for Bill Foster

Thumbprint Level

Elizabeth Burke
Linda Schuessler
AVS of Springfield/PA

Betty Curry
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller
Elizabeth Lebert
Gilberte Lambert
Edwin Donald Leonard
Judith Hess
Sheryl Farlin
Richard Curry

James Graf
Bettye Harold
Stella Richardson
Martha Menard

TOTALS $181.00

Crossing a Micro-mini Sinningia with a Mid-sized Sinningia

By John Beaulieu
Illustrations and photos by author

In the last issue, we looked at pollinating the tiny sinningias, harvesting seed and how to wrap it for storage. Now it is time to sow your seed, and there are many options you can choose for containers to sow your seed in.

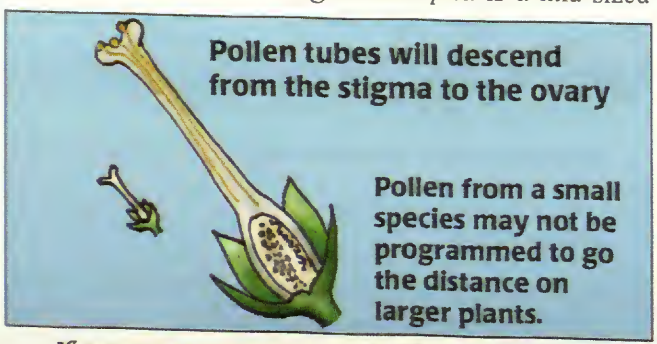
It really depends on how much seed you wish to sow, so you should consider how much space you have for growing the seedlings. You can sow a small amount of seed, say twelve seeds, in a standard 2 1/2 inch pot, or you can sow more in larger containers.

I feel that the most important factor is choosing a container that can have a clear dome over it to create humid conditions that will prevent the soil-mix from drying out, damaging the germinating seeds and early seedlings.

A standard soil-less potting mix can be used, or you can add more vermiculite and/or perlite. Some hobbyists will even use straight vermiculite for a sowing medium. I will often use a top dressing of New Zealand sphagnum moss to sow the seeds on. I have read that sphagnum moss has natural properties that help to guard against damping off. I have not had problems with losing seedlings either way. I always moisten my mix with boiling water and feel that this helps to keep it fairly sterile. Of course, the mix is allowed to cool before sowing seeds on it.

Your containers should be placed in a warm location with good light. Light is important for germination, and good light will result in stronger seedlings. Gesneriad seed should be sown on the surface of your mix, never buried.

I can never have two plants blooming at the same time without wondering what a cross between the two might look like. This was the case when my little *Sinningia* 'Rio das Pedras' was blooming at the same time as a eumorpha-type hybrid. The species *Sinningia eumorpha* is a mid-sized


Pollen tubes will descend from the stigma to the ovary
Pollen from a small species may not be programmed to go the distance on larger plants.

If you are crossing plants of different sizes, your chances will be much better if you use pollen from the larger plant on the stigma of the smaller plant.

I use a variety of containers to sow seeds in. Anything with a clear top will work to create that greenhouse type of environment for good germination and early growth.

Tap a piece of white paper to get your seeds evenly distributed across your potting medium.

This group of seedlings is at a stage where they can be easily transplanted into their own pots or at least thinned out before they start to crowd each other too much. You will also see that a (harmless) green moss is growing on the planting medium.

Sinningia and 'Rio' is a micro-mini species. My eumorpha-type hybrid is a descendant of plants obtained almost 30 years ago from the late Ted Bona.

I had simply dabbed pollen from the hybrid onto a freshly opened 'Rio' flower, hoping that some of the pollen would take. I watched the tiny seedlings very closely and saw that they all had the distinctive markings of pure 'Rio das Pedras'. As they grew, I started to notice a seedling that looked a little different. It had no dark midrib color and it seemed to be growing faster and larger. Could this be from my attempted cross?

I transplanted all the seedlings very early on, as I have learned how much better seedlings grow when potted up early and frequently. I put the probable selfings in one terrarium and put this potential cross in a container of its own.

This had to be from the cross, as it grew very fast and soon was much larger than I had anticipated, actually growing a little too large for the container! When it first flowered it was clear that this was more than a 'Rio' gone wild. The flower size was intermediate between a micro-mini and a eumorpha sized plant. The foliage continued to grow to almost eumorpha size, which was way larger than the 'Rios'. I figured 'Rio Grande' would be a fitting name for this plant.

I had dreams of the new potential of crossing this plant with the full range of colors available with other eumorpha-type hybrids and other miniature sinningias. However, as is common when two distant sinningias cross, this new hybrid has so far proved to be sterile, and it can only be propagated by cuttings. That doesn't mean that I don't keep trying...you never know!

By the way, that other group of seedlings in the terrarium all turned out to be 100% 'Rio das Pedras' selfings.

This is a good example of the fun and excitement that you can have when you start hybridizing with your gesneriads.

Remember that even a hybrid that has self pollinated will produce a variety of seedlings, generally representative of the background of that hybrid. Do not give seedlings from a hybrid the same name of the hybrid, since they are not truly that plant, no matter are closely they may look like it. They should be labeled as 'seedlings' or 'seedlings of' '_____' if you distribute those plants.

The gesneriad world is already flooded with so many look-a-likes, and many hybridizers send most of their seedlings to the compost pile unless they are different enough to be named and propagated as a distinctly new or improved hybrid, or perhaps they may keep it for themselves to be used in further hybridizing.

You will notice in the photo of my 'Rio das Pedras' mother plant, that that flower has six petals instead of the usual five. This trait shows up from time to time on various plants. A single plant may produce one like this with all the rest being normal. So far when I have crossed one six petal flower to another six petal flower (or selfed a six petal flower), it has not produced seedlings with a higher number of six petal flowers. But, that is another interesting trait to work on!

Damping off

This is a horticulture term for a number of different fungus-caused ailments which can kill newly germinated seedlings. Using sterilized soil mix, and spraying the mix with an anti-fungal known to work for this purpose helps. Homemade solutions include chamomile tea or garlic, and even ground cinnamon may be sprinkled on the soil to ward off fungus.

As seedlings from my attempted cross of 'Rio das Pedras' and a eumorpha-type began to grow, one appeared larger and lacked the distinctive 'Rio das Pedras' coloration.

It became obvious that the one seedling (left) was a hybrid produced from the eumorpha-type pollen.

First flowering of the hybrid - 'Rio Grande'.

The parents, on the left is 'Rio das Pedras' (mother) and on the right is the eumorpha-type (father)

Yard Sale Fund Raiser

By Kathy Bell • Tucson AVS

Most of you know that as with most plant societies, the African Violet Society needs help raising funds. I would like to challenge every affiliate to help keep our society doing well.

How can you help? Have a yard or garage sale! If we have these sales across the country this spring or summer, we can all raise funds for AVSA!

Everyone has lots of *stuff* that they don't use anymore, things that are taking up space. Is your garage or attic full? What a perfect motivation to clean out the attic or garage!

People love coming to yard sales, and with the economy's downturn, they are looking for bargains. Everyone finds bargains at yard sales. It is a "win-win" situation for everyone! You get rid of stuff, people get a bargain, and AVSA gets some much-needed funds.

My club, the Tucson AVS, has had several yard sales over the years, and finds it is a fast way to make money. For the 2004 AVSA National Convention that we hosted, our yard sales were our biggest fund raisers! We had three sales and made over a thousand dollars. The more stuff you have the better! You will be surprised how much you can make just charging five, ten, and twenty five cents. We collected five hundred dollars in just a few hours! I couldn't believe it! I've been a believer in yard sales ever since!

Organizing a yard/garage sale is very easy. Ask your club members to bring items to one volunteer's house, run a small ad in the local paper (optional) and put signs up. Also, you might want to have a few violets for sale, and be sure to have some *African Violet Magazines* on display. This will help you gain new members for AVSA and your local club.

When we have advertised that we were having a yard sale for our African Violet Club, some of the shoppers were looking for violets. Whether we had any available or not, it gave us an opportunity to hand out fliers and promote our next show and sale.

Be creative and help AVSA out, and at the end of the year we'll run a list of the clubs that raised money for our national society. If we are successful, we should do this every year.

Have fun and sell lots of stuff!

YARD/GARAGE SALES FOR AVSA

What a great idea! If your club has a yard sale or garage sale, to raise funds for AVSA, please indicate that they are from such a sale. Funds raised will go to the Booster Fund, to help AVSA.

The AVSA office will keep track of the funds raised and the clubs participating, and your club will be listed in the AVM at the end of the year. The club raising the most funds will have their photograph run in the November/December 2009 AVM, and will be recognized at the 2010 convention in Raleigh, NC.

Why Grow Semi-miniature African Violets?

By Susan Bradley

While I grow all sizes of African violets, a few years ago I began to focus more on growing semi-miniatures. There are distinct advantages to growing them. First of all, in my limited growing space (three plant stands in a shared apartment), I can enjoy more varieties of semiminiatures than I can of standards. Thus, I can justify buying "just one more variety."

Also, the varieties I grow are aggressive bloomers, so there is more color and less green on the plant stands. Since it is not necessary to disbud them consistently to get good show foliage as it is with standards, semi-minis can be allowed to bloom at will, all but the last two months before a show.

Semi-minis mature rapidly, thus requiring less repotting en route, which in turn frees me from that most onerous of all violet chores, pot washing. Normally, the pot in which I originally plant the baby semimini is the pot I sell the plant in. Only if the plant outgrows its original pot or, if I keep the mature plant six months rather than selling it, will I repot it in another pot. When you consider that a standard plant usually requires at least one repotting, more if you want to grow a mature show specimen, growing semi-minis has allowed me to cut my pot washing in half: an advantage in an apartment where there is little room to store or soak dirty pots.

A further advantage to semi-minis is that they require very little grooming to prepare them for show. If your culture is fairly consistent, most semi-minis grow themselves into neat blooming rosettes. The occasional variety, particularly older ones, sometimes takes more effort to keep it small and sucker free. But I found the majority of recent hybrids to have strong leaf stems and naturally symmetrical growth patterns. These plants don't require staking or support rings, just room to spread without touching other plants.

Normally, all I do to prepare semi-minis for show is to repot them 8-10 weeks before the show, depending on the seasonal temperature in my apartment. I disbud them once, place them on their reservoirs under the lights, and let them grow. In the week before the show, I'll remove old leaves and spent flowers. If necessary, I'll also pot them a little deeper in their pots, topping them off with vermiculite to cover any visible neck. I use vermiculite because it is easier to add under the leaves without making a mess. Semi-minis are also much easier to transport to shows and sales as I can fit twenty to thirty plants in a closed under-bed box, then stack the boxes in my car.

Thus, for sheer easy care, color, and quick adaptability to showing and selling, for an apartment grower, semi-miniature African violets can't be beat.

From *The Dixie News*

Vintage Violets

By Barbara Elkin, *Vintage Violets Committee*

2855 Gayle Lane • Auburn, CA 95602-9674

Email: bjbar121@yahoo.com

It's almost spring, at least here in California. It has been about 80 degrees for several days. Hey, this is California, and it is still January. What happened to the cold and frost? I have been working in the garden as it too nice to be stuck in the house. It has not rained for ages, and we are behind in our rain. Without rain and snow in the Sierras, we get dry as tinder, and with the first lightning storm that comes by, we burn. We feel much safer now that we have gotten city water and a fire hydrant. The fire hydrant is about 400 feet from my front door.

We do have a convention coming soon, in Reno. What I should be doing is working in the greenhouse and getting plants ready to show! Vintage Violets is doing well now that I have a vice chairman. Did I say before she is *young*? Young is a lot of help!

AVSA's Most Wanted

Alice Barger, Always Alice, Barb's Gorgeous George, Big Ben, Blue Barry, Blue Brad, Brad, Cat's Meow, Dorothy Louise, Esmerelda, Fringed Charm, Georgie Boy, Green Crystal, Jack Frost, Jan Ellen, Lively Lana, Mary Katherine, Mister Brad, Mister Brian, Rana, Ringo, Royal Californian, Royal Mountbatten, Ruthie's Bell, Sally Hertel, Sara, Victor Constantinov, Victor's Snow, Teddy Bear, Virginia Is, Wee Stevie, and Wine Barry.

Treat Your Club as You Would Your Favorite African Violet

By Florrie Kohn

The care and feeding of your African violet club may be just as important as the time and attention you invest in bringing your best plants to show, and the results may last a lot longer. The good news is that caring for your club can be fairly easy. Think of it like your favorite violet.

First, assess your club's overall health. Ask yourself one simple question: Do you enjoy visitors? Whether you're a mini made up of a small, close-knit group or a standard needing name tags to keep names and faces straight, a willingness to share what you know about violets says a lot about why your club exists. If your club doesn't enjoy visitors, it's probably not the healthiest – or happiest – violet on the shelf.

Second, check your pot size and lighting. A successful club needs a meeting space with enough elbow room that every member can participate without feeling squeezed, but not so much room that anyone feels overshadowed or left out. Each member needs to feel that he or she is in a good position to soak up what's going on at the meeting, and should have the opportunity to rotate in and out of the club limelight as program planners, officers, and discussion leaders.

Third, remove dead blossoms and extraneous leaves. Take a hard look at your meeting format and your by-laws, especially if your club has been around a very long time. Double-check to be sure the length of your meeting fits the time constraints of your current members. Evaluate time-honored traditions such as the reading of minutes, attendance requirements, and membership criteria to determine if the way you've always done things is the best way to do them now.

Fourth, wick your club to keep it fresh and well-fed. Establish an e-mail group to keep members up to date between meetings. And then make sure anyone without e-mail is kept in the loop. Your meetings will stay more current, more focused, and friendships will grow.

Fifth, control pests. Complaints kill a meeting faster than crown rot ruins a violet. Come to club meetings wanting to be there. Be a good self-listener and a great conversation guide. Recognize when your own comments start turning to whines – we've all been there – and help steer the conversation in fresh directions when someone else dwells too long on a complaint. Call for a five-minute stretch break when needed. And end your meeting on time.

Sixth, be ready to blossom, literally. Encourage club members to participate in violet shows. Nothing sparks a fresh enthusiasm for violets and your violet club quite like supporting each other at shows, working together, and celebrating each other's accomplishments.

Packing Queen

By Diane Miller

Diane Miller "The Packing Queen"

Although I would prefer to be "...young and sweet, only seventeen and the dancing queen,..." as described in the *Dancing Queen* song by Abba, some of my close friends have dubbed me, "The Packing Queen." A friend came up with that label a few years ago when she watched me pack 65 violets and streps into an 18"x13"x 8" box.

"Amazing," she said, "You ought to write an article for the AVM." The thought had never before crossed my mind. I was sure everyone already knew the drill of how to wrap and pack plants, since I had seen others obtain boxes from some of the commercial growers.

Shame on you if arrive in Reno with a suitcase missing the "violet packing essentials." Your violet first-aid kit simply must include scissors, tape, and a roll of Baggies. Newspaper is also a must, but even during a drooping economy, that ingredient, so far, still appears under your door in most big hotels. Let me clarify what I mean by Baggies. I am not talking about those super-duper fancy Ziplock varieties. I'm talking about the red and yellow box with the green alligators – plain old Baggies that come with the paper-covered wire twisters. They come 150 bags to a roll and can be purchased at virtually every Walmart or local dollar store. This is just one of many uses I have found for these little plastic marvels. (More on these in another article)

You will want to get as many plants in one small box as you possibly can. Think of it as a strategy that will satisfy airline space restrictions as well as visually appearing to satisfy any promises to your family that "only a few" plants will be returning home with you from convention. You will already be at home unpacking when your lack of understanding of the word "few" could ever become apparent. If caught, a plausible answer is: "Hmmm.... So I can't count!" More than 60 plants can easily fit into one of Paul Sorano's plant boxes he has stacked behind his Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses commercial sales tables. Those boxes fit very nicely in the overhead compartment on most major airlines. I have been known to get even more plants in one of those boxes, but 60 is a "piece of cake." Part of this tip came from my good friend Dorothy Kosowsky and I simply experimented from there.

First: Start with a sturdy carrying package with proper handles. Commercial grower boxes should be in abundance at the convention. As a backup, you can always take a collapsed box in your suitcase with a roll of tape. One of the commercial growers usually will have a box cutter (don't try taking one of those gadgets on the plane in your carry-on!). Cut two rectangular openings on the ends of the box large enough to get your hands in so you can easily carry it. I

have also used the stick-on handles that many of the department stores provide when you are leaving the store with a bulky or heavy package. They are very strong and sturdy and serve as a great temporary handle and take up almost no room at all in your suitcase.

Second: Prepare the plants for the trip. Take your plant out of its pot and place the root ball portion in a Baggie. Tape it securely around the top of the soil line so as not to lose any of the "dirt."

Hint: *Leave the immature leaves on the plant until you get home; those leaves will help protect the plant in transit.*

Once you have your plant bagged, open a sheet of newspaper. Half of a single sheet works for most plants. If the plant is very small, a quarter sheet will do. Roll the plant on a diagonal in the newspaper to form a cone. Tuck in the ends and secure with tape. Do this with all your plants and place them in the box with the root ball alternating in opposite directions. Roll them fairly tight. They will be fine until you get home. I have placed 60-70 plants in one of those boxes and have never suffered a lost plant due to a packing problem.

So, on "Friday night and the lights are low, looking out for the place to go," – go to your room and start packing those plants. "You can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life." (I always have the time of my life at Convention!). "See that girl, watch that scene, diggin' the Dancing (**Packing**) Queen."

Paul Kroll's Design Secrets

By Marilyn Heinrich

Paul Kroll, a member of the African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York, spoke to us about "Design Made Easy," or as he put it "Design Secrets." Paul describes himself as an old-style designer who sticks to basics rather than going out on a limb to try unusual or novel designs. In the program, he shared details concerning the three types of arrangements: cut, growing, and container gardens.

Cut material arrangements, including the underwater arrangements, may sometimes be combined with growing materials, depending on the show schedule. Cut flowers should be "conditioned." Blossoms last longest if taken from well-watered plants, not stressed plants. Paul uses the clear plastic sandwich containers to transport blossoms to a show if it is too much of a problem to carry whole plants (which would be best). He lines the bottom of the plastic container with a wet paper towel and lays the blossoms on top. The container should be kept cool, though not refrigerated. He recommends using flowers from African violets, *Streptocarpus*, *Kohleria*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Codonanthe*, and *Neomortonia rosea or nummularia*. At convention, it can be difficult to get blossoms, so you should bring your own or contact one of the vendors to bring flowering plants for you.

Paul has used red/yellow *Aeschynanthus* blossoms to represent fire in an arrangement. Green wire wrapped around the stems helps to shape them; this can be done for *Columnea* as well. One should trim greenery, such as evergreens, to lighten up the lines. And, contorted Harry Lauder's Walking Stick as line material can be effective in providing depth to a design.

Plastic vessels can be glued to line material to hold water for blossoms. Suitable vessels are syringe caps, pen caps, and caps from markers. These can be painted or covered with floral tape. Plastic straws can be cut down and the end sealed with hot glue, or the straw can be bent in half to make 2 holders. Rose tubes or floral picks can also be glued to the back of containers. Paul has a plastic injector that he uses instead of a syringe, since they are difficult to travel with. Eye droppers can work if they have a narrow opening at the tip. Containers can consist of bottle caps, spray can tops, and salad dressing tops. Avoid white containers, as they can look bigger in a design than they really are. Pin holders can be stuck to the bottom of containers with stickum. Containers can be purchased with an embedded pin holder. Stickum can be purchased wherever floral supplies are sold and is available in colors.

In underwater arrangements, everything is magnified, including the mechanics. The design is created outside the bowl and stuck to the bottom of the bowl when it is finished. Paul recommends using distilled water to fill the bowl because it will stay clear. Bubbles that form in tap water can be nice in certain designs, but the tap water is more likely to fade the blossoms. Selected plant material should be tested at home before being using in a show, as some materials can bleed in water. Certain types of twisted line material, such as spiral reeds, can straighten out and "grow" out of the water. Bowls must be clean. They must be treated as the niche within which you are working. If hot glue is to work under water, the materials it must hold have to be squeaky clean. Use a leaf, such as *Aeschynanthus*, to wrap the holder or hide it instead of using marbles, shells, etc. Paul says darker blossoms last longer; lighter colored blossoms rot faster. *Sinningia* blossoms don't hold up under water because the petals separate from the calyx. This may be remedied by pinning the flower on, using hot glue. Don't use fugitive blossoms or transparently thin flowers. The fresher the blossoms, the better. As in all designs, the largest blossoms should be on the bottom, graduating in size upwards. One could even use a bud, glued to a stick for height, at the top.

If a design needs to be raised in a niche, dowels or bamboo skewers can be used. Another approach is to put something under the background draping to raise the base of the design. Paul uses a lockable measuring tape to check the design's height. Practice niches can be made from cardboard. A design should be made ahead of time and looked at over a period of time to make improvements. While initial design construction should be done at home, blossoms are placed in designs just before judging.

There are two kinds of Oasis: one stays dry and the other holds water.

The more designs you do, the better you get at it, and the faster you become.

For designs that call for growing materials, the root ball can be covered with a nylon stocking or green Saran Wrap. Heavy wire wraps can be used to close up the top of the covering around the stem. The plant should be tilted toward the viewer.

Welded wire constructions can be used to hold root balls. Root balls can be covered with excelsior, long fiber sphagnum moss, growing moss, sheet moss, or cut pieces of background draping. Spray paint camouflages coverings, also. And, there is a new Krylon paint that adheres to plastic.

Some other items in the designer's tool kit should include razor knives, paint brushes in various sizes to sweep leaves and other materials, gold wire, floral picks with wire ends, an extension cord for the glue gun, a non-pilling natural sponge to wash leaves, and scissors to cut leaves and stems (sometimes from the hotel's outdoor landscaping). Paul likes to incorporate *Streptocarpus* leaves in his designs, and he uses special shears to trim them. He grows his own gesneriads for his plantings, plus the *Ficus pumilus quercifolia,* the oak leaf shaped ground cover.

Three considerations for container gardens are: (1) line a wavy pattern in the landscape gives depth to the design; (2) the landscape should not be flat use transitional materials; (3) selection of focal point; and (4) sizing material to scale.

Niche designs can have textured, but not printed backdrop material. The fabric should be ironed. Do not over accessorize or use one enormous accessory. Try to execute designs without accessories. Be subtle in interpreting the design title don't hit the judges over the head with the theme. Remember that the design is worth 40 points, while the interpretation is worth much less.

Container gardens should be put together and grown ahead of time. Tip cuttings can be put in propagation boxes two months before, so that there will be small plants to use. Paul suggests using *Episcia* stolons, and baby *Petrocosmea*. Tray and natural gardens need to be watered well and/or sprayed with water, and covered with plastic. Round terrariums are more difficult to construct because of the curving sides.

When traveling by plane, some banned items can be safely put in checked baggage. Plan ahead and pack items with socks and shirts.

Designers have the option of buying plant materials for use in their creations. Designers have more fun in shows when they share materials and ideas, and critique each other's work.

Paul's program was informative and enjoyable. I hope he encouraged more novices to try design.

Editor's Note: The author, Marilyn Heinrich, is a member of the Long Island New York Gesneriad Society and a member of the African Violet Society of Long Island. She wrote this summary of the program Paul Kroll presented at the LIGS September meeting. This program was written with Gesneriad Society rules in mind, but is adaptable to AVSA shows as well. (Reprinted from the Saturday Observer.)

African Violet Trailers

By Jeanette Wallace

Trailing African violets, as well as standard African violets, require the same care in potting, watering, light, fertilizing, and pest control. The differences is in the training, pinching, and pruning, which begins with a very young plantlet, continuing throughout the plant's life.

The primary goal of trailing cultivars is to establish at least three main crowns growing from one central stem, then filling in with other crowns to complete the form. There is no limit to the number of crowns a trailer may have; however, each must contribute to the enhancement of the overall form.

Most lovely trailers are those which have a consistency of leaf size. The original first leaves and large leaves that hang over the center of the plant need to be removed. Pull them back or cut them off and allow light into the center of the plant in order to develop a healthy circular specimen.

Propagation is by leaf or tip cutting. I put 4-5 leaves of the same variety into a "Texas-style" pot for several months. When they are about an inch tall with approximately eight leaves, I pot them up in small 2-1/2" pots with soil. Very small plantlets are returned to the Texas-style pots until they are larger and more mature.

Tip cutting will produce a good plant quickly if the tip is potted in a small pot with regular soil mix and good humidity. Before potting, the leaves from the crown's lowest inch are removed, and the stem gently scraped. This stimulates root production. The stem can be dusted, of course, with a rooting hormone, but this is not essential.

When very young, a trailer looks just like a regular, single crowned violet. As the plant becomes established and develops eight fully-grown leaves, the training rules change. With your fingers, pinch off the tiny leaves sprouting from the center point of the crown. Leave at least four leaves to provide nourishment to the root system. Pinching will continue through out the trailer's lifetime, to encourage branching, lush growth, and flowering.

Trailers respond very well to one cool and one warm florescent light about eight inches above the plants, much closer than the 10-12" for standards. Lights are on 12-14 hours daily.

As with all African violets, watering is one of the most important factors for healthy, floriferous growth. Warm, fertilized water is added to the soil when the surface of the plant is dry to the touch. About once a month, three cups of warm water is poured through the soil to wash away accumulated fertilizer salts.

Fertilizing trailers is simple – use 1/4 tsp. of Peter's 20-20-20 in one gallon of warm water, applied once a week. Before a show, I switch to Peter's 12-36-14 or 5-50-17 to encourage more blooms.

Some varieties of trailers will naturally grow well without much help. My favorites are 'Pixie Blue,' 'Snowy Trail,' 'Teeny Bopper,' and 'Dancing Trail.'

There are some trailers that need constant, careful grooming, but I have found all trailers as an enjoyable challenge and a pleasure to grow.

From *The Dixie News*

From A Hybridizer's Notebook: The Notch-Os

By Janet Stromborg

In my first attempt at growing African violets from seed, I bought a package of 'Fantasy Hybrid Teacup' African violet seeds from Park Seed Company in 1986. I sowed the entire package, expecting a "few" miniature and semi-miniature seedlings, but ended up with hundreds of seedlings to evaluate. Almost all of them were discarded as "nothing special" once they all bloomed.

Allegro Rosemantic

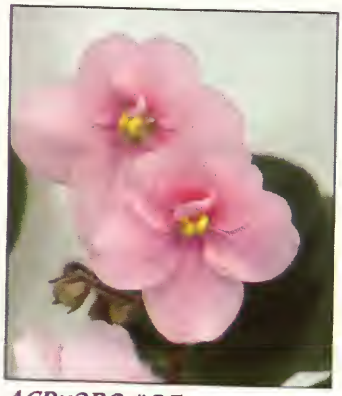
However, one well-shaped little mini emerged that was unlike any of the others. It had single white pansy-shaped blooms with pink centers and distinct notches in the tips of the top petals and less distinct notches in the bottom petals. I was so disappointed when I discovered it was a "single dropper" and ejected its blooms before they were spent...in fact while they were still fresh and perfect!

Single Dropper

Even though it should have been discarded with the other rejects, I kept it and named it 'Allegro Cupid.' The notched petal tips intrigued me, so I started a second plant from a leaf and it looked just like the original. I watched them for many years and sputtered as I picked up after them, scooping up the perfect ejected blooms. Then in 1995 one of my two plants of 'Allegro Cupid' sported to hot pink with a red center. Its foliage was a bit darker, but it was just as symmetrical and just as cute as the white version. I named that one 'Allegro Cupid Pink' and continued to watch (and clean up after) both of them for many more years, propagating 'Allegro Cupid Pink' through three generations.

Allegro Cupid Pink

Because it was a single dropper I never registered it, though I listed it in First Class II and shared it with some friends. Seven years later, I decided to see if I could pass the notched petal trait on to a miniature which would hold its flowers but still show the distinctive notches. I was in search of a sticktite single or a semidouble, thinking the notched tips would show up best if there were fewer petals in the flowers. I liked the pink with red center color combination so in 2003 I crossed 'Allegro Cupid Pink' with 'Optimara Rose Quartz,' a semidouble pink with a red center.



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I wasn't able to sow the seed until 2007, when it finally came out of the freezer and was brought to life. As the seedlings began to bloom in 2008, I was beginning to suspect that the trait was linked to single petals since all the first seedlings to bloom with notched petals were single...and droppers!

Patience paid off and I was delighted to see the trait eventually show up in several late-blooming seedlings with semi-double and double flowers as well. Of the 54 seedlings I bloomed out from the cross, 30 had notched tips to some degree, though clearly

ACPxORQ #31

some seedlings showed the trait more consistently and had better defined notches than their siblings. From this, it was evident that the trait was dominant and I had a good chance of seeing just what I wanted in future crosses, using these seedlings or 'Allegro Cupid Pink' again as a parent.

Seedling #33, one of the double seedlings that best exhibited the notched tips, has been named 'Allegro Rosemantic' and I am currently testing it through a third generation for stability, prior to registering it with AVSA. But I **still** want a sticktite single Notch-O!

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African Violet Tips from AVSA Board Member Leonard Re

- I use a variety of watering methods. However, I still feel that bottom watering works best for me. Twice a week, I put about a 1/2" to 1" of fertilized water (reverse osmosis water) in the pot's saucer. The plant will soak this up in about an hour. Any water that is remaining gets recycled out to the garden. Do not let your plants stand in the water for longer than a couple of hours or it may cause rot. I do have all my plants wicked, but I use the wicking method only if I am going to be on vacation for longer than one week. I also top bottom water and drench the plants once a month with Epsom salts.
- Terrariums combine both the design and horticultural aspects of violet growing. I plant the taller plants in the back of the terrarium, using different heights and then create a garden scene with small accent plants in the front and on the sides. You must have at least one blooming African violet in order to enter and win an award in an AVSA show. I also use at least a couple of other violets (blooming or non-blooming) with interesting foliage such as variegated mini's. Additionally, I use other gesneriads, such as episicas, sinningias, and nematanthus. Everything should be to scale, and the blooming violet(s) should be easily seen. If you haven't tried a terrarium it is a fun and challenging aspect of violet growing.
- When a heat wave hits the temperatures can be the upper 90's and low 100's, Our plants become stressed, so there are several things I do when this occurs. First, I usually run my lights around 11 hours per day under normal conditions. However, with the higher temperatures, I will reduce the lights by an hour or two. If you are growing in natural light, pull the plants back from the windows to prevent sunburn. Another thing I do is cut my fertilizing back by half. If you are feeding 1/4 teaspoon, use 1/8 teaspoon. If the heat continues beyond a few days, keep your light hours reduced as long as it is exceptionally hot.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BUYING AND SELLING AFRICAN VIOLETS ON EBAY

By Pat Wilson

In the never-ending pursuit of African violets, we have all begged, traded, purchased, and shame on us, even snitched leaves, to gain new plants for our violet collection. Now, a whole new world has opened up in acquiring and sharing African violets - the Internet.

Since computers and the Internet have become a part of almost everyone's life, eBay has become a worldwide marketplace for everything and anything you can imagine. This includes a huge variety of sources for violets, gesneriads and other plants, as well as supplies, such as soil additives, potting soil, pots, and grooming tools.

I have been selling and buying on eBay since 1998. Not just violets, but a huge variety of other stuff. However, the guidelines are pretty much the same, regardless of the item. I would like to share with you what I have learned, some of it the hard way. I am hoping that what I have learned will help you have an enjoyable and profitable eBay experience.

For the African Violet buyer/bidder:

Register as an eBay buyer before you start looking for violets. (www.ebay.com) This means that you can take your time and navigate the registration process so that you can later bid without the worry of someone getting "that special violet" before you complete registering on eBay. After you have registered with eBay, just click over to the PayPal website (www.paypal.com) and register.

eBay now requires that all buyers **MUST** have a PayPal account before they can buy. Not only is PayPal accepted (and required) by eBay, it is also accepted by numerous online sites, including our own AVSA. PayPal allows you to do an electronic transfer of monies anywhere in the world in a matter of minutes. I have purchased items from England, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong and paid for them in less than five minutes. There was no additional service charge to me as a buyer. I have not had the worry of trying to figure out where to buy money orders or figure exchange rates or pay snail mail postage to send a money order or check to the seller. This meant that I received my item several days earlier because the seller received my payment immediately, not in 3 to 5 days, then waited to have a check clear, adding on even more delay. Then as a seller, I have been paid by folks from Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Holland, England, Canada, Brazil and other countries I can't recall. I was paid in just minutes, no waiting for snail mail delivery. The payment safety was guaranteed and although I had to pay a service fee as a seller, it was very well worth the charge. Remember, the buyer making a payment has NO fee to PayPal; the seller does have a small fee to PayPal.

Using PayPal and eBay gives new meaning to the phrase "instant gratification" and your violet seller will love you.

After you have registered and are now a member of the eBay community, it is time to go in search of the violets you just have to have.

Use the search tool that is located on the home page and just about every other page on eBay. Enter what you are looking for and just click on the "search" button. If you have a specific variety that you are looking for, try entering the search parameters something like this, "African violet Kermit". This will narrow the field to violets, specifically to the variety Kermit. If you want to look at everything, just enter "African violet" or "African violets" in the search space and have a blast.

A hint - using the singular or plural form of a word can make a definite difference in the number of items you will pull up on a search. Also, misspelling can make a huge difference. Try this, enter the word "neckless" or "shrit" in the search and see what you get. Using "Country Girl" when you want "Country Gal" can be frustrating for the first timer. Try variations of the words in your search, using Wedgewood and Wedgwood as an example. Just playing with the search can open all sorts of interesting eBay doors.

Another hint - read the seller's feedback. That is the number that follows the seller's name.

For example: seller's name -GorjusGeorge (238).

Just click on that name or the number and it will take you to the page where the eBayer's feedback is listed. This tells you the total number of transactions this seller has had, the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the buyers, and lots of other information. This will give you an idea of the caliber and quality of the seller and the product.

A cautionary note here. I don't want to discourage anyone from using the Internet and eBay, but I would be remiss if I did not warn you that there are folks out there that will try to get all sorts of information from you in order to steal your identity. Be prepared for an email to almost immediately follow registering on eBay that says something to the effect that you have to reconfirm your user name and password before you can bid. You will be asked to click on a link and re-enter the information requested. DO NOT!!!! This is a very basic example of spoof mail or phishing mail. Remember, just like your Internet service provider, neither PayPal nor eBay ***will ever*** ask for your user name and/or password.

You have found "the violet," in fact, you have found a whole slew of violets that you just have to have, right now. Take a deep breath and remind yourself how much you

want to spend. Some folks can get a bad case of "auction fever" that results in bidding far more than they really planned to because "I just have to have it and that other person is not going to get it!!" I really recommend that you enter the highest amount that you are comfortable spending and just walk away. eBay will only enter the amount of money you need to win the item. For example, you are bidding on a violet and the most you feel comfortable spending is $10 plus shipping. Enter your maximum bid amount as $10. This is often NOT what you will pay, but it is your bidding limit. You will see that the current bid will be something like $4.99. If $4.99 is what the violet finally goes for, that is what you pay.

Now you have won the African violet you bid on. You will receive e-mail notification from eBay and probably your seller that you have won this violet. You will probably also receive in that email, the cost of the violet and the cost of shipping.

Bidding on multiple plants from one seller. Most sellers will give a shipping discount for more than one item won. Your experienced eBay seller will combine plants to save you money on shipping, providing a base cost for one plant and a reduced cost for each additional plant purchased at the same time.

Be sure to carefully read the seller's auction FIRST.

It will usually tell you the item, description, a photo or photos of the item, shipping costs, shipping schedule, method of shipping, refund policy, and other important details. This can save you all sorts of headaches and ruffled feelings. As an example, I describe the item, with a photo; mention my shipping schedule, how I ship, what my shipping charges are, and other information. I wait until the bidder tells me they are done to send an invoice or combined invoice. Otherwise, I wait until Saturday night or Sunday to send the winning bidder a combined invoice for everything. This makes it so much easier for both parties.

A word on eBay etiquette. Please contact your seller as quickly as you can after the auction closes. If you absolutely, positively refuse to have a PayPal account, PLEASE, do not ask your seller to make a special exception for you to pay by another method. If you will have a delay in submitting payment, let your seller know **before you bid.** Obtain agreement with the seller and avoid any misunderstanding. Pay promptly. Pay promptly, pay promptly. Oh, did I mention that it is a good idea to pay promptly?

An email back to the seller when you receive the shipment is really appreciated. If you are dissatisfied, contact your seller immediately. Do not use coarse or threatening language. Do not threaten to leave negative feedback to get what you want. Remember, you get what you give in life and on eBay.

Explain the problem and ask the seller how this can be corrected. Remember that old adage; you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. Trust me, it works. Most problems can be resolved easily.

You have heard me refer to feedback. Buyers and sellers really, really need feedback to be successful on eBay. That is correct, even buyers need feedback. Some sellers will not accept bids from buyers who do not have XX number of feedback, or who have XX number of negative or neutral feedback.

Leave feedback for your seller. Only leave neutral or negative feedback if you really, truly cannot resolve the problem and if you really truly have a problem. Always contact the seller first to try to work things out. Only state the facts, no attacks on the person. You will look so much classier and refined handling it this way. Neutral feedback should also reflect an honest feedback on the item received. If you are leaving positive feedback, feel free to go enthusiastically nuts. You will get feedback that reflects your star qualities too.

Many of the eBay sellers of African Violets talk to each other and share experiences with other sellers. It is amazing how fast a bad experience with "buyer A" is shared with other eBay violet sellers and how quickly "buyer A" finds himself/herself blocked as a bidder. That means, "buyer A" cannot bid on auctions that are being sold by "seller X or seller Y or seller Z" because they have blocked him/her. So, in the event of a problem, really try to work it out with your seller. You will usually find that you come out way ahead and maybe make more friends than you realized.

For the African violet seller:

Like the buyer, you need to register with eBay.

Register with PayPal. Besides receiving your payments instantly, you can print prepaid mailing labels with free delivery confirmation on PayPal. The labels can be printed on plain paper and taped on your shipping box. DO NOT tape over the bar code.

Take the best photos you can. Hopefully, you have a digital camera. Use good lighting and get as close to the item/plant as you can and still get a clear crisp photo. Limit clutter; all we buyers want to see is the plant. Make sure the plant is lit from the front rather than the back. I have seen some photos of black blobs that were supposed to be African violets. I don't think that particular seller was very successful!

Describe your item/plant clearly - how many, what size it is, what variety. Explain your terms of sale –what your shipping charges are, when you ship, how you ship (USPS vs. UPS or FEDEX). Do you give refunds, do you combine shipping, and do you give shipping or quantity discounts?

Have on hand a few boxes for shipping. There is nothing more anxiety provoking than trying to find a suitable box for two standard violets at the last minute. If you recycle merchandise boxes from your local store, I really, really recommend that you open the box at the glue or staple seam and turn it inside out and retape. This will give you a clean, blank brown box suitable for shipping via the post office. If your box is free of brand names and merchandise logos, you still need to check for shipping labels.

Be sure all old shipping labels are removed or your shipped violet may end up at your local Target store.

Check at your local post office for free, yes, I said free, priority boxes. You can also get free priority mailing labels.

Weigh your items carefully in the box that they will be shipped in. If you are opting for a fixed shipping charge, know the average weight of your plant and its shipping box. You can find out shipping charges on the Post Office web site, WWW.USPS.COM. I have a digital scale, but when I first started out, I had to rely on the patience and kindness of the folks at my post office to help me establish an average weight for plant shipping. List your shipping charge prominently in your auction text so that the buyer can easily see what it will cost to ship the plant.

Pack and wrap your plants and leaves carefully. Remember that packages are routinely tumbled and tossed in the post office sorting centers, so try to stabilize your plants to protect them from this sort of handling. Some sellers use insulation in their packing. Be sure you let your buyers know this, as some folks have a severe allergic reaction to insulation.

Ship promptly and then notify your buyer that their shipment is on the way.

There are many more tips and ideas that other eBay and online sellers have shared, but to try to put them all in one article would mean it would become a book. I hope that these suggestions will get you started, either as a buyer or a seller.

Like any other walk of life, most of the people involved with eBay, whether seller or buyer, are very, very nice people. You will make friends and learn things from the folks you meet on-line that will enrich your life and your violet experience. Enjoy!

Reno 2009 Convention Show Awards

Time is short to contribute to the Reno Convention Show, "African Violets in the Biggest Little City". Your individual or club donations are always appreciated, and it is not too late to get one in the mail. The awards that we give are important because they encourage people to show their plants and the awards serve as a reward for their hard work. Members and affiliates make these awards possible through their donations, and we encourage each of you to consider giving an award. Here are the latest donations to the fund:

Undesignated Awards:

$100 - Lone Star African Violet Council (TX)
$50 – Sherrie & Phil Wallace (OK)
$30 – Parmatown African Violet Club (OH)
$25 – Susan Anderson (AZ)
$25 – Sylvia Leeds (TX)

Specific Awards:

$100 – Best New Cultivar (Commercial) in memory of Frank Tinari – Mary & Art Boland (VA)
$50 – Best New Cultivar (Amateur) – Mary & Art Boland (VA)
$50 - Best Standard Chimera - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)
$50 - Best "Irish Flirt" - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)
$25 – Best Trailer – Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach (FL)
$25 – Best Other Gesneriad – Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach (FL)
$25 – Best Standard Trailer – Violet Gallery/Mahlen & Brenda Petry (PA)
$25 – Best Vintage Miniature – Violet Gallery/Mahlen & Brenda Petry (PA)

Corrected Awards:

$300 - Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection – Vladimir Kalgin
$200 – 2nd Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection – Vladimir Kalgin
$100 – 3rd Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection – Vladimir Kalgin
$25 – Design – First African Violet Society of Spartanburg (SC)
$25 – Horticulture – First African Violet Society of Spartanburg (SC)

Thanks to the many individuals, clubs, and councils who have offered their generous award support for the 2009 show in Reno! It is your generosity that puts the smiles on the faces of the winners.

There is still time to be included on our list. Send your check or money order payable in U.S. Funds and made out to "AVSA Awards" to:

Judith Carter
AVSA Awards Chair
1825 W. Lincoln St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

We look forward to hearing from you! The final deadline to be listed in the Souvenir Book has been extended to March 15, 2009. View a current awards listing on the AVSA web site at www.avsa.org under National Convention. Although every attempt has been made to list awards correctly, we reserve the right to modify or change these listings.

Sharing Good Works Through African Violets

By Nancy Carr

Many people enjoy African violets in their homes. Some have the plants in several rooms, growing in natural light. And, some get bitten by the 'bug' and grow under artificial light. Such a person was Floy Borron of Winigan, MO, according to her daughter Deanna Borron Stewart. Floy took her hobby a step further and shared it with her small northern Missouri community.

Floy Borron began growing African violets in 1974 when she inherited some of her mother's plants. She joined AVSA, began subscribing to the *African Violet Magazine* in the 1980's, and had a copy of Pauline Bartholomew's book *Growing To Show*.

Her violet collection grew. She grew standards most of the time although she had some miniatures and semiminiatures. Her favorites tended toward the large standards like 'Vintage Wine' and 'Rain Man'. Floy had African violets in every room of her three bedroom house, and in the basement under lights. They were wick watered. Various members of her community kept her supplied with margarine tubs for wick watering and cereal boxes for transporting violets. At one time she had over 500 plants in her home. She supported her hobby by selling a few violets to the local florist and at an occasional flea market.

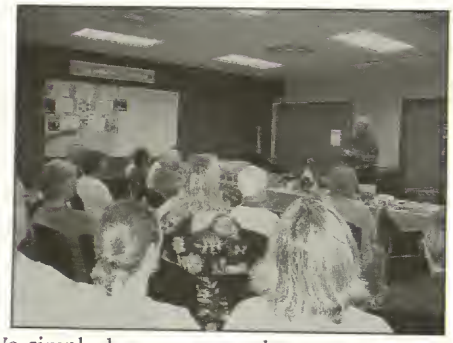
But, her main outlet was the annual "Mini Strawberry Festival" in Winigan. The festival is a community fundraiser for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home in Bridgeton, MO. From 1990 to 2004, Floy donated about 100 African violets to be sold each year. Everyone who bought one of her violets received an instruction sheet on how to grow African violets. The sheet included her cultural 'secrets.' She became known as "The Violet Lady" and many visitors came to the Festival for the specific purpose of buying African violets. Her African violet sales averaged $500, annually donated to the Children's Home.

In 2004, Floy was awarded a plaque from the Children's Home in recognition of her service to the Home, through the community festival.

Floy Borron was very generous with her plants and her knowledge of African violet care in her small community. She passed away in 2008 at the age of 92.

TEACHING POTENTIAL AV LOVERS

By Don Geiss



In the spring, Maxine, my wife of fifty-eight years, and I ordered fifteen leaves. A month later dozens of baby plants began to emerge. When the babies grew large enough to break apart and set, we planted every one that was possible. We even replanted the mother leaves and those babies are too small to set yet.

We have baby plants that have just emerged from leaves that were set. It is impossible for us to stop planting them. We simply have an obsession with planting every baby in sight.

Out of the original leaves there were 129 babies! And there are still more leaves in the second batch, showing more young ones. Of course, we shuddered to observe that shelf space for plants was gradually disappearing. At this point the alternatives were throwing some away or giving them away. All of our known contacts who were African violet growers lived over sixty miles away. We had no shipping license, nor did we have the space to package the plants. But we absolutely refused to throw any of them into the refuse pile.

If we could find some African violet enthusiasts, they would be glad to share the plants. Then, we had an idea. We would find fellow African violet people in the community who were interested and capable of raising, repotting, and growing the plants by some method or another. A classified ad in the local paper might work but then how could we be certain that the people who answered the ad were really capable? The ad would have to be lengthy, because of the elaborate explanation we felt was necessary. This might result in a significant amount of money for something we planned on giving away!

The best method of finding people capable of the job seemed to be for us to conduct a training program. It would assure that the persons attending were capable of caring for the babies. We knew that date and time were very important to its success. Even more important would be the room in which to conduct the program. While there were plenty of empty rooms available, the rental costs were prohibitive.

One day Maxine happened to go to the library for a used book sale. She heard about the head librarian and her love of African violets. She introduced herself to the librarian who recognized her name as that associated with African violets. Maxine asked if the librarian would attend a program on the subject if one were possible. Instead, and much to her surprise the librarian offered to host the program in the library's meeting room.

Apparently, she once raised many African violets, but lost them in her move to Michigan. We presented her with a welcoming gift of two plants in full flower that were duplicates in our collection. We later found out her four-year-old daughter was enamored with one of the plants and wanted to keep it in her room. When we found this out, we delivered another plant, just for her.

We arranged a meeting with her and her program coordinator to set a date and discuss the details. They offered a showcase at the front entrance for displaying flowering African violets, resource books, and *African Violet Magazines* for a month in advance of the program. They also had contacts at the local newspaper and radio to publicize the event. We agreed that those wanting to attend should register in advance, as space only allowed a group of thirty.

We mentioned that as a part of the teaching program a baby plant in a three-inch pot would be handed out to each participant, along with a small quantity of fertilizer, a reservoir for the wicked plants, and an instruction sheet that summarized our program. The plant and materials would cost us about forty cents for each person. We were pleasantly surprised when the library officials we met said that the costs could be absorbed in their budget.

Maxine and I made a list of exactly what we thought would be needed to cover every aspect of information and demonstration about the plants. Whenever Maxine or I thought of something new, we added it to the list. We even conducted a pretend program to be certain nothing was omitted. We planned on arriving early the day of the program to unload and to check once again that all items were on hand.

Our program began at six in the evening and was an hour and a half long. The thirty people who had signed up to attend were there, including a reporter for the publication of the Commission on Aging. He wanted to see if the program might be suited for his organization.

It is safe to say that the program was a success. Many good questions were asked and answered. We accomplished what was intended, as we taught a large group of people a dependable method of raising the baby plants. We were confident that the individuals who received the plants would have an excellent chance of success, and the library added a number of African violet books to its collection.

We also discussed the African Violet Society of America, and hopefully our efforts will result in memberships. Now we can happily continue to produce baby plants. Our obses-

(continued on bottom of page 47)

Shows and Judges

Bill Foster, Shows and Judges Committee

3610 Gray Drive • Mesquite, TX 75150
Email: 1bpfoster@sbcglobal.net

Here is a suggestion that was passed on to me, and I like it! To show our support and loyalty to AVSA, and to show that we are proud to be AVSA Judges, I request that all judges helping to judge the show in Reno **wear your judges' pin**. If you do not own one, you should! They may be purchased from the AVSA office, or from the AVSA Sales Table at the convention. Thanks in advance!

Here are few more questions that came up at the Judges' Breakfast in Tulsa:

Q: Where should sports and mutants be entered in a show? The Handbook states that sports and mutants must be entered in the classes for new cultivars. However, any sport or mutant that is simply a solid-color version of a two-tone or multicolor of an existing multicolor or two-tone variety will have 5 points deducted immediately for no improvement over existing varieties.

A: When judging in the new introduction classes, should new or different blossom color be more important than great symmetry or great foliage? NO! The scale of points for judging new cultivars gives 15 points for blossom color and 25 points for foliage.

Q: Can the schedule be the rule, instead of the Handbook?

A: The schedule is the law of the show as long as it does not conflict with AVSA rules in the Handbook. So, if the schedule has rules that ARE in conflict, then the rules in the Handbook would override the schedule.

Q: Why was the "Best In Show" not awarded "Best Standard?"

A: It usually is. However, the Best Standard is awarded to the best standard *hybrid* or *cultivar*. The beautiful plant you refer to that was awarded Best in Show was a species, therefore, not being a hybrid or cultivar, it was not eligible for this award.

I hope you are all aware that we have a new class for species collections now. This was to have been in an earlier column, but somehow that column was lost in cyber space. See you in Reno!

(continued from page 46)

gladly take our surplus. Most of all, we have the satisfaction of knowing that many more people will learn to love African violets as we do.

WORKSHOP PLANTS

Single
Double
Fantasy
Chimera
Variegated Semimini
Mini Trailer
Baby plants (give-aways) Plant with a long stem Pot with more than one plant in it

WORKSHOP SUPPLIES

2 buckets-one with wet soil, the other empty for plant scraps
empty bucket to fill with water at site for rinsing hands
tablecloth(s)
dry soil
little bottles samples of soil, vermiculite, perlite
wicks
cocktail picks
labels for display plants
felt pen
wipe cloths
pots – 3", 3 1/2", 4"

Editor's Note: If you are thinking about giving a program like Don and Maxine Geiss did, below is the plant and supply list they compiled for the occasion. If you have questions, please email Don at dmgeiss@i2k.com.

3 oz Solo cups with hole punched in bottom for setting leaves
scissors
knives
scalpel
makeup brush
needle for inserting wick
spoons – two (large long-handled spoons)
reservoir decorative covers
African Violet Magazines
carry bags/shredded paper
(we used grocery store bags with a couple of handfuls of shredded paper to pack baby plants in)
fertilizer samples
reservoirs with lids
references – Roby, Cole already at library
newspapers
sign-up sheet – name, phone, descriptions of plant's, names and number of give-away plants (to use for our inventory)
scratch paper and pens/pencils
source list for plants and supplies
instruction sheets

Be a African Violet Detective

By Sharon Rosenzweig

When I first started growing African violets, I never had problems with the foliage. I grew in windows, watered from the top, and fertilized occasionally with Miracle Grow 7-7-7. The plants bloomed, and we were all happy.

When I became a real African violet enthusiast, I changed the growing environment. The plants were moved to a light stand, placed on community trays, and fertilized more consistently with Peters 12-36-14.

When I progressed to growing for show, the lights were on longer, the plants were put on wicks or into Oyama self-watering planters, and I switched to the constant-feed method of fertilizing. I also used bloom booster for the recommended amount of time before show.

So what's the problem? After every spring show, I noticed the leaves were small and brittle and the centers were tight and bunchy. Could it have been over fertilization, too much light, or bugs?

After the spring 2008 show, I decided it was time to do some investigating. I started with the premise of over-fertilization. I leached all the plants thoroughly. I watered with plain water for two weeks. When I resumed feeding, I reduced the amount to 1/8 tsp. fertilizer per gallon of water. This is the recommended amount if you wick-water your plants or have them in self-watering containers.

Next, I investigated the lighting issue. Upon measuring the distance of the lights to the top of the plants, I discovered the fluorescents were too close to my standards (8"). I moved the shelves to get to the recommended 10" distance. I also placed small pieces of paper towel over the tightest centers to filter the light.

After several weeks, the new growth seemed to be improving. But, I wanted to see if there was anything else that needed changing. I decided to check the pH of my water + fertilizer mixture. I bought a pH test kit for aquariums in the pet store. To my amazement, the pH was way off. My well water + fertilizer was too alkaline (7.2) and the dehumidifier water + fertilizer was too acidic (6.2). I now mix both water sources together until I achieve a pH of 6.7.

The new growth is looking very good now. Fortunately, (or unfortunately) my close scrutiny of the plants revealed a possible mite infestation on one of the trays. The centers were very small, misshapen, and hairy. Since I had been handling the plants quite a lot lately, I sprayed my whole collection with AVID (3 times). Hopefully, all will be fine.

So, if you feel your plants are not performing up to par, you need to do some investigating. Sometimes, there is more than one thing going on. Based on the scientific method, you should only make one correction at a time. In my case, many issues were present and I am the impatient type, so I made all the necessary corrections within a few weeks of each other.

All my plants are doing much better now. I learned that wishing away a problem does not help. Find it and fix it!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

Pasteurizing Your Potting Mix and Containers

Most potting mixes that are purchased in stores are pasteurized. However, if you are mixing your own, it should be pasteurized and the pots disinfected before planting. Place a 4-6 inch layer of the mix in a flat pan and wet it slightly. The cheap aluminum pans work well. Cover the pan with aluminum foil, seal the edges, and place the pan in a preheated oven (180 to 200 degrees F.) Leave the potting mix in the oven and hold it at that temperature for at least 30 minutes before removing it to cool. When you recycle pots, wash them thoroughly and then soak them for 30 minutes in a solution of 1 part household chlorine bleach in 9 parts water. Rinse the pots well to remove all the chlorine.

From *The Dixie News*

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

B-Man's Montellagro

Exhibited and Hybridized by: ***Bruno Curcuruto***

Standard

Tips for Success with *Saintpaulia*

From a presentation by Betty Tapping

1. Give plants their own space. They should not touch each other as crowding is conducive to damage of the leaves and to fungal infections. If space is limited, the number of plants on a plant stand can be increased by elevating the larger plants and placing the small starter plants between and below them.
2. Twelve hours a day of light is required, except immediately prior to show when 14 to 15 hours may be necessary to bring the plants into full bloom. The cheapest light combination consists of two lights: one Cool White for light in the blue spectrum and one Warm White for light in the red spectrum. Many special Grow Lights are available, but are not actually a necessity. The tubes should be changed when the ends become black. Change only one at a time to prevent too great an increase in energy, with ensuing paling of the leaves. The second tube may be changed three weeks after the first.
3. Turn plants that are towards the ends of the lights one quarter turn every day so that all sides of the plant are evenly exposed to light. This prevents them from lifting toward the lights. Dark-leaved plants prefer more light. They should, therefore, be placed under the center of the fluorescent lights where energy is at maximum level. Paler-leaved plants and trailers requiring less light may be placed under the ends of the lights. Plants should have at least 8 hours of darkness as the energy absorbed during the day is converted by photosynthesis to chlorophyll during the hours of darkness.
4. Miniatures and semi-miniatures should be placed with the tops of their leaves about 6" (15cm) from the lights. Standards should be placed with the tops of their leaves about 8 to 12" (20-30cm) below the lights depending on the type.
5. Plants should be bottom watered as this strengthens roots by making them reach down. However, an occasional top watering may be necessary to leach out fertilizer salts which have accumulated on the soil surface.
6. Humidity should be between 30 and 50%. Placing water in the trays below the pot saucers may help increase humidity around the plants.
7. Temperature, should be, between 65 - 80° F. (16-27°c). Night temperature should be 5 - 10° F. (1-2°c) lower than day temperature but if possible the temperature should not fall below 65° F. (18°c).
8. Disbud for maximum bloom. Remove all flowers and buds from standard plants for a few months – right up to 6 to 8 weeks before show. The warmer the temperature, the shorter the period between the end of disbudding and show time. Double blossom plants take 7 to 10 days longer to come into full bloom than do those with single blossoms. Trailers are not generally disbudded. Disbudding of Miniatures and Semi-miniatures tends to induce excessive suckering and a larger leaf structure, although a short disbudding period – six weeks to 2 months can be quite helpful.
9. You can support foliage on large plants with support rings. These collars, kept in place with elastic bands, prevent drooping of the leaves, improve symmetry, and prevent damage to the foliage. If ready-made collars are too expensive, you can make your own by cutting a circle in a Styrofoam plate, using the bottom of the pot as a pattern. Cut the plate into two equal halves, place around the top of the pot, under the leaves, and tape the halves firmly together.
10. Correct gaps in the leaf pattern by gradually moving leaves using small picks or swizzle sticks. Every few days the leaf can be moved and secured, thereby slowly closing a gap. This should be done when the leaves are a bit limp from lack of water to reduce the likelihood of snapping off the leaf.
11. Regularly remove dust and soil from the foliage by brushing with a camel hair or other natural bristle brush. Do not use brushes with stiff bristles or nylon brushes as they damage the leaf surface. Remove heavy soil by washing plant with lukewarm running water. To prevent loss of soil and to allow water to run over and off the leaves, hold the plant on an angle under the tap. Do not wet the center of the plant. Dry immediately after washing, using a tissue or similarly absorbent material.
12. Blossom thrips are a concern, especially for outdoor gardeners. To prevent infestations, wash your hands and change your outer clothes after coming in from the garden before starting to work with house plants. Always use pasteurized soil mix and sterilized pots, saucers and tools. Isolate new plants coming into your collection to ensure they are indeed healthy and free of insects.
13. The worst thing that can happen to Saintpaulia is an infestation of cyclamen mites. I would strongly recommend that you dispose of any plant so affected. The damage can be severe – centres destroyed, flower stems deformed – and it will spread very quickly through a collection.
14. Pack plants carefully and well when preparing to take them to show. Leaves are at their most fragile and turgid after the plant has been watered, so don't water heavily immediately prior to packing. Excessive transpiration may occur when the plant is enclosed in the box, and cause damage to blossoms.

From the Toronto Gesneriad Society *Newsletter*

Potted African Violets as a Wedding Bouquet

By Tom Glembocki and Anne Nicholas

Are you serious? African Violets as a wedding bouquet? This is the first question that would come to mind for a wedding to include African violets. That is exactly what Anne and Richard Nicholas did recently for their daughter Laura's wedding. The bride and bridesmaids carried bouquets of African violets. (You can read about this "Violet Wedding" story in another article in this issue.) Detailed here is a step by step guide to creating African violet wedding bouquets.

Crafting a Lace Holder

The big job for Anne Nicholas was to design a 'bouquet' that would encompass the entire potted plant. It would be a violet, but must look like a beautiful bouquet. The first step was to make a holder for the pot so it would be somewhat disguised.

Materials needed: lace fabric, 'Stiffy' or any similar fabric stiffener product, desired pot wrapped with Glad Press 'n Seal.

1. Cut lace into circles that are big enough to not only create a pocket for the pot, but also large enough to provide supports for the leaves.
2. Pour the fabric stiffener into a container. Dip the circle of lace into the stiffener.
3. Remove the lace. Shape around the plastic wrapped pot.
4. Place on waxed paper. Secure the lace with rubber band. Let dry.
5. When completely dry (a day or two), peel the basket off the waxed paper and off the plastic wrapped pot.

Sparkly Rhinestones

In between the flowers of each African Violet, wired rhinestones and small white silk flowers make a dazzling display.

Materials needed: Sheer ribbon, wired rhinestones (purchased at a local craft store), small white silk flowers, floral picks, floral tape.

1. Cut ribbon into a 4 – 5 in. strip.
2. If the wired rhinestones were purchased in a small bundle, separate them into small picks of 3 – 5 rhinestones.
3. Pick out a small cluster of 2 – 3 tiny silk blossoms.
4. Use the wire of the floral pick to combine the ribbon, rhinestones, and silk blossoms together.
5. Wrap the entire pick with the floral wrap to secure and make neat.
6. Will need 5 or so of these picks, depending on the size of the violet.

Ribbon Streamers

Festive ribbons trail from the pot in colors that match the blossoms of the plant they are attached to.

Materials needed: Satin ribbon, sheer ribbon, floral wire, hot glue, strapping tape, slip pot.

1. Make ribbon loops. Secure with floral wire. These should be slightly longer than the length of the leaf of the violet. Attach the loops to an inverted slip pot with hot glue. They are attached to the outside of the lip of the pot. Remember that when held, these will fold over the other streamers.
2. Make the ribbon streamers. Cut into lengths of about 18 inches. They can be trimmed later to a shorter length if desired. Attach the ribbons over the ribbon loops. Finish the streamers with the wider satin ribbons on both sides.
3. Cover all with strapping tape.
4. When the slip pot is turned back over, the ribbons will flow as if coming from the inside of the pot. Also by attaching to the outside of the pot, there will be no problem of bulk interfering with the slip potting of the violet.

Final Assembly

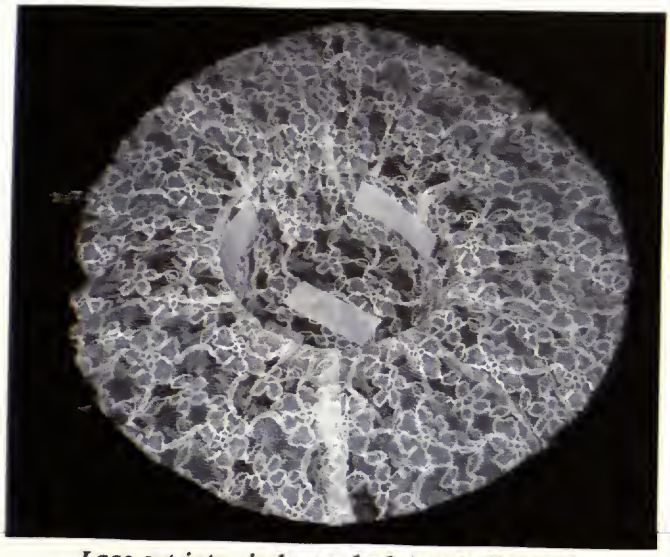
Now that the rhinestones are sparkling, the ribbons are glued and the lace basket is ready, it's time to put it all together.

Materials needed: African violet, lace basket, slip pot with attached ribbon streamers, ribbon inserts, Double sided Velcro, Oasis clear waterproof tape (available from a florist)

1. Make sure the slip pot is prepared as for a show, whatever is normally used to prevent drips, etc.
2. Place the African violet into the slip pot. If the plant is wicked, trim or remove the wick so it sits evenly in the pot.
3. Secure the plant pot to the slip pot. To do this, use the Oasis tape. Start the tape at the inside of the lip of the violet pot. Run the tape down the side of the slip pot, under the slip pot, and up the other side. Stop and secure at the opposite inside lip of the violet pot. Do this at least twice, keeping it away from the ribbon streamers.
4. Attach Velcro strips to the inside of the lace baskets. Place the corresponding Velcro strip to similar locations on the outside of the slip pot.
5. Place the slip pot into the lace basket. Press the Velcro strips together so the basket is attached firmly to the slip pot.
6. If needed, trim the edge of the lace basket so it conforms to the circumference of the leaf formation.
7. Carefully place the ribbon inserts among the blossoms. Push gently into the soil.

Trim ribbons as desired. Finished!!!!

(continued on page 52)



Lace cut into circle, soaked in "Stiffy" and formed around a violet pot covered in Glad wrap as a release agent.

Mary Craig with the wired rhinestones, small silk flowers and sheer ribbons.

The starched lace makes a perfect lace basket that fits around the outside of the pot.

Assembled "rhinestone picks" ready for insertion into the potted African Violet plant

Ribbon loops attach to a slip pot. They will fold over the streamer ribbons.

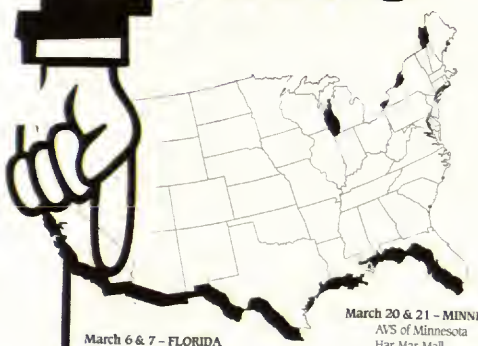
The ribbons attach to the ribbon loops and then are covered with strapping tape all around the pot.

With the pot now turned right side up you can see the ribbon loops covering the streamers.

The ribbons and streamers are attached to the pot and the pot is placed inside the lave basket for this photo.

The violet 'Lonestar Helen Mahr' seated in the slip pot. Notice the ribbon loops extending just beyond the leaves.

Coming Events



March 6 & 7 – FLORIDA
Central Florida AVC
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave.
Orlando, FL
Mar 6 – Noon – 4pm
Mar 7 – 10am – 4pm
Info: Evelyn Briggs (407) 322 – 1409
Email: evbriggs@earthlink.net
Elvie Blakely (321) 269 – 3628
Email: eblakely001@cfl.rr.com

March 7 & 8 – ARIZONA
Tucson AVC 51st Annual Show/Sale
The Foothills Mall
7325 N. La Cholla Blvd.
Tucson, AZ
Mar 7 – 10am – 9pm
Mar 8 – 11am – 5pm

March 12 - 14 TEXAS
First Nighter AVS, First Alpha AVS, First AVS of Dallas Combined Show/Sale
North Havens Gardens
7700 Northhaven Rd.
Dallas, TX
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Sylvia Leeds (903) 356 - 2540
Email: roseoc@hughes.net

March 14 - CALIFORNIA
South Coast AVS & Tustana AVS
Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325-2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 14 & 15 – FLORIDA
Fantasy AVC 17th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd./Hwy. 50
Brooksville, FL
Mar 14 – 11am – 5pm
Mar 15 – Noon – 3pm
Info: Sally Scaggs (352) 398 - 1679
Email: siscaggs@tampabay.rr.com

March 14 & 15 - LOUISIANA
Sundowners AVS of Baton Rouge Judged Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 14 – 2pm – 5pm
Mar 15 – 11am – 3pm
Info: George Ramirez (985) 384 – 0309
Email: George.Ramirez@Regions.com

March 20 & 21 – MINNESOTA
AVS of Minnesota
Har Mar Mall
2100 Snelling Ave. North
Roseville, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Connie Rowley (763) 559 – 5983
Email: violetsrusmn@gmail.com

March 20 & 21 - TEXAS
First African Violet of Denton Annual Show/Sale
First Presbyterian Church, Erwin Hall
1114 W. University Drive
Denton, TX
Mar 20 - 1:30pm - 5:00pm
Mar 21 - 9:30am - 3:30pm
Info: Anne Nicholas (940) 565-0363
Email: randanicho@aol.com
www.orgsites.com/tx/dentonfavs

March 21 & 22 – TEXAS
First Austin AVS 41st Annual Judged Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Park Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX
Mar 21 – 11am – 4pm
Mar 22 – 1pm – 4pm
Info: Susan Kautz (592) 365 – 1818
Email: gizmo@austin.rr.com

March 21 & 22 – NEBRASKA
Omaha AV and Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Mulhall's Nursery
3615 N. 120th St.
Omaha, NE
Mar 21 – 9am – 5pm
Mar 22 – 10am – 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 – 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

March 21 & 22 – NEW YORK
Sweet Water AVS 34th Annual Judged Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Department Hall
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave.
Mar 21 – 2pm – 5pm
Mar 22 – Noon – 5pm
Info: (631) 589 – 2724
Email: violetsbyappointment@att.net

March 27 & 28 - ALABAMA
Early Bird Violet Club of Birmingham Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2612 Lane Park Rd.
Birmingham, Al.
Mar 27th - 2pm - 4pm
Mar 28th - 9am - 3pm
Info: Gwen Johnson (205) 991-5335
Email: gjohn99@bellsouth.net, or
Martha Coleman (256) 378-7398
Email: tmcoleman5@bellsouth.net

March 27 & 28 – FLORIDA
First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
Mar 27 – Noon – 7pm
Mar 28 – 9am – 5pm
Info: Christel Collier (863) 686 – 9059
Email: collierpc@tampabay.rr.com

March 28 – NEBRASKA
Lincoln AVS Spring Exhibition/Sale
St. Mark's Methodist Church
8550 Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE
Hours: 9am – 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 – 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

March 28 & 29 – CANADA
Toronto Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, Centre Square
25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
Mar 28 – 11am – 6pm
Mar 29 – 11am – 5pm
Info: Beverley Williams (905) 620 – 1149
Email: beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com

March 28 - 29 - MISSOURI
Sho Me African Violet Club
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania Ave
Kansas City, Missouri
(816) 784-5300
Info: Dick and Shirley Faris
(816) 726-2430

March 28 & 29 - WASHINGTON
Seattle AV & PS Gesneriad Show/Sale
Swanson's Nursery
9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle WA 98117
Saturday 12-5pm, Sunday 9am-3pm
Info: Jean Chin email:
chin_jean@yahoo.com
Bob Clark 206-819-6239
Rohm Gustafson 206-323-2867
Web site:
http://seattleafricanvioletsociety.googlepages.com

April 3 & 4 - NEW JERSEY
Central Jersey AVS 30th Annual Show/Sale
First Baptist Church
232 Main Street
Matawan, NJ
Apr 3 - 3pm - 7pm
Apr 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jan Murasko (732) 821-8641

April 4 – CONNECTICUT
Windsor AVS Show/Sale
St. Gabriel's Church
379 Broad St.
Windsor, CT
Hours: 8:30am – 3pm
Info: Nancy Hayes (860) 242 – 0162
Email: violetnancy@comcast.net

April 4 & 5 - DELAWARE
Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's
Annual Flower Show/Sale
Boscov's Auditorium
Christiana Town Center
Delaware Route #273
Christiana, Delaware
Apr 4 - 11am - 5pm
Apr 5 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Bobbie LaFashia (302) 656 -7215

April 4 & 5 - NEW YORK
Long Island AVS Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
John A. Anderson Recreation Center
111 North Oceanside Road
Rockville Centre, NY
(516) 7668002
Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 5 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Muriel Fasullo (516) 8875724
Email: tmfasullo@yahoo.com

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY
AVC of Morris County Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
53 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Apl 4 - 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Apr 5 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4417
Email: HFJG.Fischer@comcast.net

April 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Capital City AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Apr 4 - 2pm - 4pm
Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard (530) 637-9000
Email: lynn_lombard@att.net

April 11 &12 – NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque AVC 41st Annual Show/Sale
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Apr 11 - 2pm – 5pm
Apr 12 - 10am – 4pm
Info: Sharon Shannon (505) 865-0171
Email: sshannon2@swcp.com

April 17 & 18 – NEW JERSEY
Bergen County AVS 52nd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Old North Reformed Church
120 Washington Ave.
Dumont, NJ
Apr17 – 3pm – 9pm
Apr 18 – 9am – 3pm
Info: Sharon Lynch (201) 784 – 9501
Email: violetmom@optonline.net

April 18 & 19 – MASSACHUSETTS
Bay State AVS Judged Show/Sale
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Dr.
Boylston, MA
Apr 18 – 10am – 5pm
Apr 19 – 10am – 4pm
Info: Sharon Rosenweig
(508) 877 – 8076
Email: srosenzw@comcast.net

April – 18 & 19 – CANADA
Societe des Saintpaulia de Montreal Judged Show/Sale
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrook St. Est
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Hours: 10:00 – 16:00
Info: saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com
Vox Mail: (514) 990 – 5701

April 19 – CANADA
Toronto AVS Show/Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 10am – 3pm
Info: Don MacDonald (416) 964 – 9305
Email: daveblakemore@rogers.com

April 24 - 26 - VIRGINIA
Richmond AVS Show/Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave.
Richmond, VA
Apr 24 - 1pm - 5pm
Apr 25 - 9am - 5pm
Apr 26 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Stewart (804) 594-0643
Email: info@richmondavs.org
Website: richmondavs.org

April 25 - MISSOURI
The Unpredictables AVS Show/Sale
The Grain Valley Historical Society Building
506 Main Street
Grain Valley, Missouri
Dick and Shirley Faris
(816) 726-2430

April 25 - CONNECTICUT
Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Willoughby Wallace Library
146 Thimble Islands Road
Branford, CT
Hours: Noon to 4:30pm
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481-9455
Email: mycbuzzard@aol.com

April 25 – CANADA
Club Violettes Longueuil Show
Chalet du Parc Regional de Longueuil
1895 Adoncour, Longueuil, Quebec
Hours: 1:30pm – 4pm
Info: www.geocities.com/club_violettes_longueuil

April 25 & 26 – NEW YORK
AVS of Rochester Judged Show/Sale
Perinton Square mall
Routes 250 & 31
Fairport, NY
Apr 25 – Noon – 5pm
Apr 26 -11am – 4pm
Info: Fay Wagman (585) 381 – 6384
Email: FayW@aol.com

April 25 & 26 - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County AVS 42th Annual Judged Show/Sale
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, California
Workshop: Apr 25th 2:30pm - African Violets Care
Apr 25 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Apr 26 - 10:00am - 3:00pm
For information:
(650) 346-7307 or (415) 898-6376
Email: caviolet@aol.com

April 25 & 26 – CANADA
Lakeshore AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, Centre Square
25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
Apr 25 – 11am – 6pm
Apr 26 11am – 5pm
Info: Beverley Williams (905) 620 – 1149
Email:
beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com

May 1 & 2 - TEXAS
Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio Annual Judged Show/Sale
Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd.
Live Oak, TX
May 1 - 2pm - 4:30pm
May 2 - 8:30am - 4:30pm
Info: Irene Harney (210) 684 - 3598
Email: viharney@sbcglobal.net

May 1 – 3 – PENNSYLVANIA
Springfield AVS Show/Sale
Springfield Mall
Baltimore Pike & Sproul Rd.
Springfield, PA
May 1 – 6pm – 10pm
May 2 – 1pm – 10pm
May 3 – Noon – 6pm
Info: Brenda Nyce (610) 864 – 3392
Email: three58@msn.com

May 2 & 3 – NEW YORK
AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 East Mud Lake Rd
Baldwinsville, NY
May 2 - 1pm – 6pm
May 3 – 10am – 4:30
Info: Kathy Garbarino
Email: kgarb@twcny.rr.com

May 2 & 3 - OHIO
Cincinnati AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastgate Mall
Ohio State Route 32 and Interstate 275
Cincinnati, Ohio
May 2 - 12 noon - 9 pm
May 3 - 12 noon - 5 pm
Info: Al Cenci (513)- 831-3692
Email: acenci@cinci.rr.com

May 2 – CANADA
Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Van Dusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Hours: 1pm – 4pm
Info: Arleen Dewell (604) 254 – 8975
Email: arleendewell@shaw.ca

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK
AV & Gesneriad Society of Western New York
Judged Show/Sale
Walden Galleria Mall
Galleria Drive
Cheektowaga, NY
May 2 – 11am - 9pm
May 3 – 10am - 5pm
Info: Paul Kroll (716) 652-8658
Email: pfkroll@roadrunner.com

May 2 & 3 – NEW JERSEY
Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Rd.
West Windsor, NJ
May 2 –Noon – 6pm
May 3 – 9am – 4pm
Info: Jessica Bryant (609) 223-0441
Email: j.l.bryant@hotmail.com

May 2 & 3 - WISCONSIN
Oshkosh Violet Society 29th Annual Judged Show/Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Parish
(formerly Sacred Heart Church)
Corner of 5th Ave. & Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI
May 2 - 10:00am - 4:30pm
May 3 - 11:30am - 3:00pm
Info: Kevin Degner (920) 426-3764
E-mail: kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

May 2 & 3 - VIRGINIA
Tidewater African Violet Society
26th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Free Parking & Admission
St. John's Lutheran Church
8919 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, VA
May 2 - 9am - 5pm
May 3 – Noon - 5pm
Info: Brenda Taylor (757) 816-5517
Email: hydrafly@cox.net

May 2 & 3 – CONNECTICUT
Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Earthplace
10 Woodside Ln.
Westport, CT
Directions: www.earthplace.org
May2 - 1pm to 5pm
May 3 - noon to 4pm

May 8 & 9 - OHIO
Parmatown AVS Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7441 W. Ridgewood Dr
Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30 pm - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Pat Schreiber (440) 884-1958
Email: patschreiber@earthlink.net

May 9 – OREGON
Portlandia Violet Club Display/Sale
Jantzen Beach Mall
Portland, OR
Hours: 10am – 8pm
Info: Blanche Bunker
(503) 761 – 7861

May 14 & 15 – TENNESSEE
Dixie AVS Convention
1400 Market St.
Chattanooga, TN
May 14 – 1pm – 5pm
May 15 – 10:30am – 4pm
Info: Monica Litman (423) 584 – 5888
mlitman@charter.net

March 6 & 7 – FLORIDA
Central Florida AVC
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave.
Orlando, FL
Mar 6 – Noon – 4pm
Mar 7 – 10am – 4pm
Info: Evelyn Briggs (407) 322 – 1409
Email: evbriggs@earthlink.net
Elvie Blakely (321) 269 – 3628
Email: eblakely001@cfl.rr.com

March 7 & 8 – ARIZONA
Tucson AVC 51st Annual Show/Sale
The Foothills Mall
7325 N. La Cholla Blvd.
Tucson, AZ
Mar 7 – 10am – 9pm
Mar 8 – 11am – 5pm

March 12 - 14 TEXAS
First Nighter AVS, First Alpha AVS,
and First AVS of Dallas Spring Show/Sale
North Havens Gardens
7700 Northhaven Rd.
Dallas, TX
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Sylvia Leeds (903) 356 - 2540
Email: roseotx@hughes.net

March 14 - CALIFORNIA
South Coast AVS & Tustana AVS
Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325-2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 14 & 15 – FLORIDA
Fantasy AVC 17th Annual Judged
Show/Sale
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd./Hwy. 50
Brooksville, FL
Mar 14 – 11am – 5pm
Mar 15 – Noon – 3pm
Info: Sally Scaggs (352) 398 - 1679
Email: siscaggs@tampabay.rr.com

March 14 & 15 – LOUISIANA
Sundowners' AVS of Baton Rouge Judged
Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 14 – 2pm – 5pm
Mar 15 – 11am – 3pm
Info: George Ramirez (985) 384 – 0309
Email: George.Ramirez@Regions.com

March 20 & 21 – MINNESOTA
AVS of Minnesota
Har Mar Mall
2100 Snelling Ave. North
Roseville, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Connie Rowley (763) 559 – 5983
Email: violetsrusmn@gmail.com

March 20 & 21 - TEXAS
First African Violet of Denton Annual
Show/Sale
First Presbyterian Church, Erwin Hall
1114 W. University Drive
Denton, TX
Mar 20 - 1:30pm - 5:00pm
Mar 21 - 9:30am - 3:30pm
Info: Anne Nicholas (940) 565-0363
Email: randanicho@aol.com
www.orgsites.com/tx/dentonfavs

March 21 & 22 – TEXAS
First Austin AVS 41st Annual Judged
Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Park Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX
Mar 21 – 11am – 4pm
Mar 22 – 1pm – 4pm
Info: Susan Kautz (592) 365 – 1818
Email: gizmo@austin.rr.com

March 21 & 22 – NEBRASKA
Ohama AV and Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Mulhall's Nursery
3615 N. 120th St.
Omaha, NE
Mar 21 – 9am – 5pm
Mar 22 – 10am – 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 – 1478
Email: Kents@tvsonline.net

March 21 & 22 – NEW YORK
Sweet Water AVS 34th Annual Judged
Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Department
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave.
Mar 21 – 2pm – 5pm
Mar 22 – Noon – 5pm
Info: (631) 589 – 2724
Email: violetsbyappointment@att.net

March 27 & 28 - ALABAMA
Early Bird Violet Club of Birmingham
Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2612 Lane Park Rd.
Birmingham, Al.
Mar 27 - 2pm - 4pm
Mar 28 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Gwen Johnson (205) 991-5335
Email: gjohn99@bellsouth.net, or
Martha Coleman (256) 378-7398
Email: tmcoleman5@bellsouth.net

March 27 & 28 – FLORIDA
First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
Mar 27 – Noon – 7pm
Mar 28 – 9am – 5pm
Info: Christel Collier (863) 686 – 9059
Email: collierpc@tampabay.rr.com

March 28 – NEBRASKA
Lincoln Spring Exhibition/Sale
St. Mark's Methodist Church
8550 Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE
Hours: 9am – 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 – 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

March 28 & 29 – CANADA
Toronto Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, Centre Square
25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
Mar 28 – 11am – 6pm
Mar 29 – 11am – 5pm
Info: Beverley Williams (905) 620 – 1149
Email:
beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com

March 28 - 29 - MISSOURI
Sho Me African Violet Club Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania Ave
Kansas City, Missouri
816-784-5300
Info: Dick and Shirley Faris
(816) 726-2430

March 28 & 29 - WASHINGTON
Seattle AV & PS Gesneriad Show/Sale
Swansons Nursery
9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle WA 98117
Mar 28 - Noon - 5pm
Mar 29 - 9am -3pm
Info: Jean Chin email:
chin_jean@yahoo.com
Bob Clark (206) 819-6239
Rohm Gustafson (206) 323-2867
website:
http://seattleafricanviolesociety.googlepages.com

April 3 & 4 - NEW JERSEY
Central Jersey AVS 30th Annual Show/Sale
First Baptist Church
232 Main Street
Matawan, NJ
Apr 3 - 3pm - 7pm
Apr 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jan Murasko (732) 821-8641

April 4 – CONNECTICUT
Windsor AVS Show/Sale
St. Gabriel's Church
379 Broad St.
Windsor, CT
Hours: 8:30am – 3pm
Info: Nancy Hayes (860) 242 – 0162
Email: violetnancy@comcast.net

April 4 & 5 - DELAWARE
Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad
Society's
Annual Flower Show/Sale
Boscov's Auditorium
Christiana Town Center
Delaware Route #273
Christiana, Delaware
Apr 4 - 11am - 5pm
Apr 5 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Bobbie LaFashia (302) 656 -7215

April 4 & 5 - NEW YORK
Long Island AVS Annual AVSA Judged
Show/Sale
John A. Anderson Recreation Center
111 North Oceanside Road Rockville Centre
New York, NY (516) 7668002
Apr 4 – 2pm 5pm
Apr 5 – 1pm 4pm
Info: Muriel Fasullo (516) 887 – 5724
Email: tmfasullo@yahoo.com

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY
AVC of Morris County Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
53 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Apr 4 - 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Apr 5 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4417
Email: HFJG.Fischer@comcast.net

April 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Capital City AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Apr 4 - 2pm - 4pm
Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard - 530-637-9000
Email: lynn_lombard@att.net

April 11 &12 – NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque AVC 41st Annual Show/Sale
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Apr 11 - 2pm – 5pm
Apr 12 - 10am – 4pm
Info: Sharon Shannon (505) 865-0171
Email: sshannon2@swcp.com

April 17 & 18 - NEW JERSEY
Bergen County AVS 52nd Annual Judged
Show/Sale
Old North Reformed Church
120 Washington Ave.
Dumont, NJ
Apr17 – 3pm – 9pm
Apr 18 – 9am – 3pm
Info: Sharon Lynch (201) 784 – 9501
Email: violetmom@optonline.net

April 18 & 19 – MASSACHUSETTS
Bay State AVS Judged Show/Sale
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Dr.
Boylston, MA
Apr 18 – 10am – 5pm
Apr 19 – 10am - 4pm
Info: Sharon Rosenweig (508) 877 – 8076
Email: srosenzw@comcast.net

April – 18 & 19 – CANADA
Societe des Saintpaulia de Montreal Judged
Show/Sale
Chalet du pars Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrook St. Est
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Hours: 10:00am – 3:00pm
Info: saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com
Vox Mail: (514 990 – 5701

April 19 – CANADA
Toronto AVS Show/Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 10am – 3pm
Info: Don MacDonald (416) 964 – 9305
Email: daveblakemore@rogers.com

April 24 - 26 - VIRGINIA
Richmond AVS Show/Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 23228
Apr 24 - 1 pm - 5 pm
Apr 25 - 9 am - 5 pm
Apr 26 - 9 am - 4 pm
Info: Barbara Stewart (804) 594-0643
Email: info@richmondavs.org
Website: richmondavs.org

April 25 - MISSOURI
The Unpredictables AVS of Blue Springs,
Missouri
The Grain Valley Historical Society Building
506 Main Street
Grain Valley, Missouri
Dick and Shirley Faris
(816) 726-2430

April 25 - CONNECTICUT
Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Willoughby Wallace Library
146 Thimble Islands Road
Branford, CT
Hours: Noon - 4:30pm
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481-9455
Email: mycbuzzard@aol.com

April 25 – CANADA
Club Violettes Longueuil Show
Chalet du Parc Regional de Longueuil
1895 Adoncour, Longueuil, Quebec
Hours: 1:30pm – 4pm
Info: www.geodies.com/club_violettes_longueuil

April 25 & 26 – NEW YORK
AVS of Rochester Judged Show/Sale
Perinton Square Mall
Routes 250 & 31
Fairport, NY
Apr 25 - Noon – 5pm
Apr 26 -11am – 4pm
Info: Fay Wagman (585) 381 – 6384
Email: FayW@aol.com

April 25 & 26 - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County AVS 42nd Annual
Judged Show/Sale
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, California
Workshop: Apr 25 - 2:30pm - African
Violets Care
Apr 25 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 26 - 10am - 3pm
For information:
(650) 346-7307 or (415) 898-6376
Email: caviolet@aol.com

April 25 & 26 – CANADA
Lakeshore AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, Centre Square
25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
Apr 25 - 11am – 6pm
Apr 26 - 11am – 5pm
Info: Beverley Williams (905) 620 – 1149
Email: Beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com

May 1 & 2 - TEXAS
Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio Annual
Judged Show/Sale
Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd.
Live Oak, TX
May 1 - 2pm - 4:30pm
May 2 - 8:30am - 4:30pm
Info: Irene Harney (210) 684 - 3598
Email: viharney@sbcglobal.net

May 1 – 3 – PENNSYLVANIA
Springfield AVS Show/Sale
Springfield Mall
Baltimore Pike & Sproul Rd.
Springfield, PA
May 1 – 6pm – 10pm
May 2 – 1pm – 10pm
May 3 – Noon – 6pm
Info: Brenda Nyce (610) 864 – 3392
Email: three58@msn.com

May 2 & 3 – NEW YORK
AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 East Mud Lake Rd
Baldwinsville, NY
Apr 2 - 1pm – 6pm
Apr 3 – 10am – 4:30pm
Info: Kathy Garbarino
Email: kgarb@twcny.rr.com

May 2 & 3 - OHIO
Cincinnati AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastgate Mall
Ohio State Route 32 and Interstate 275
Cincinnati, Ohio
May 2 - Noon - 9pm
May 3 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Al Cenci (513)- 831-3692
Email: acenci@cinci.rr.com

May 2 – CANADA
Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society
Show/Sale
Van Dusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Hours: 1pm – 4pm
Info: Arleen Dewell (604) 254 - 8975
Email: arleendewell@shaw.ca

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK
AV & Gesneriad Society of Western New
York
Judged Show/Sale.
Walden Galleria Mall
Galleria Drive
Cheektowaga, NY
May 2 – 11am - 9pm
May 3 – 10am - 5pm
Info: Paul Kroll (716) 652-8658
Email: pfkroll@roadrunner.com

May 2 & 3 – NEW JERSEY
Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Rd.
West Windsor, NJ
May 2 – Noon – 6pm
May 3 – 9am – 4pm
Info: Jessica Bryant (609) 223-0441
Email: j.l.bryant@hotmail.com

May 2 & 3 - WISCONSIN
Oshkosh Violet Society 29th Annual Judged
Show/Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Parish
(formerly Sacred Heart Church)
Corner of 5th Ave. & Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI
May 2 - 10am - 4:30pm
May 3 - 11:30am - 3pm
Info: Kevin Degner (920)426-3764
E-mail: kevin_degner@sbcglobal.net

May 2 & 3 - VIRGINIA
Tidewater African Violet Society
26th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Free Parking & Admission
St. John's Lutheran Church
8919 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, VA
May 2 - 9am - 5pm
May 3 – Noon - 5pm
Info: Brenda Taylor (757) 816-5517
Email: hydrafly@cox.net

May 2 & 3 – CONNECTICUT
Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Earthplace
10 Woodside Ln.
Westport, CT
Directions: www.earthplace.org

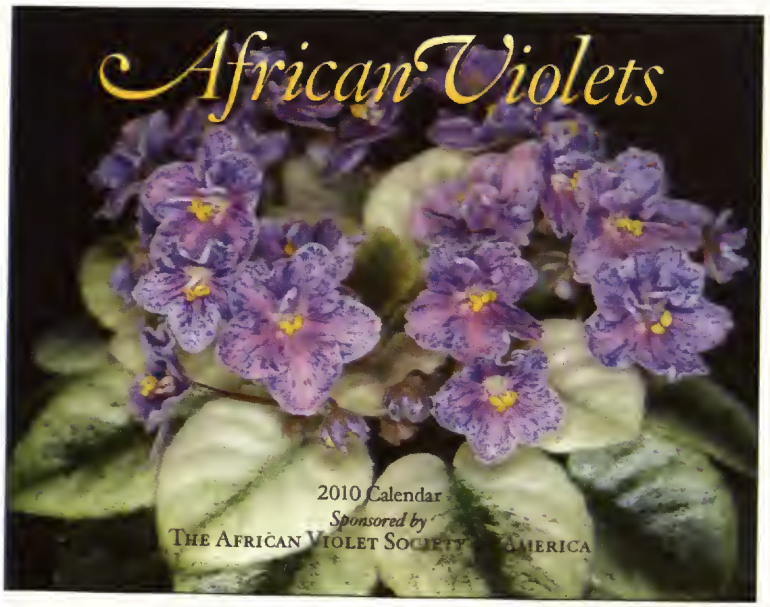
May 8 & 9 - OHIO
Parmatown AVS Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7441 W. Ridgewood Dr
Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30 pm - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Pat Schreiber (440) 884-1958
Email: patschreiber@earthlink.net

May 9 - OREGON
Portlandia Violet Club Display/Sale
Jantzen Beach Mall
Portland, OR
Hours: 10am – 8pm
Info: Blanche Bunker
(503) 761 – 7861

May 14 & 15 – TENNESSEE
Dixie AVS Convention
1400 Market St.
Chattanooga, TN
May 14 – 1pm – 5pm
May 15 – 10:30am – 4pm
Info: Monica Litman (423) 584 – 5888
mlitman@charter.net

AVSA's 2010 Calendar

The perfect gift for lovers of African Violets!



US	$13.95
Canada	$15.95
Other International	$17.95

My First Success in Growing From Seed

By Muriel Staley • Kellogg, Idaho

I finally had my first success of growing African violets from seed! My previous attempts have not been successful because I did not keep them warm enough.

This time, I kept the mother plant fairly dry and flowerless, and within four months the seed box was mature. I carefully made a cut in the seed box and sprinkled the dust-like seeds onto folded white paper. A small oval-shaped plastic cat food container provided a growing bed for the seed. The soilless medium was dampened with tepid water, and the seed was sprinkled over the peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite.

The container of seeds was then inserted into a plastic sandwich bag and placed under the grow lights, keeping them warm during the day. Then, at night, the container was placed on a warm chimney shelf. This was on December 28, 2008, and the little specks of green appeared twelve days later, which proved to be very exciting.

It is now the end of January, time for the second thinning of this myriad of seedlings. I have some tiny tweezers for this job.

I am looking forward to seeing the mature plants. The mother plant was a coral pink with a wide cream colored edge, name unknown. The seedlings are a healthy green color and look strong.

Planting by Moon Signs

All tables use Eastern Time. Please calculate the difference between your time zone and Eastern.

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign; used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Sun	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
2 Mon	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
3 Tue 2:59 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
4 Wed	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	2:46 am
5 Thu 6:07 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
6 Fri	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
7 Sat 8:24 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
8 Sun	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
9 Mon 11:34 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
10 Tue	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd	10:38 pm
11 Wed 2:46 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
12 Thu	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
13 Fri 8:22 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
14 Sat	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
15 Sun	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
16 Mon 5:21 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
17 Tue	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
18 Wed 5:18 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	1:47 pm
19 Thu	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
20 Fri	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
21 Sat 6:06 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
22 Sun	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
23 Mon 5:08 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
24 Tue	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
25 Wed	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
26 Thu 1:03 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	12:06 pm
27 Fri	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
28 Sat 6:09 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
29 Sun	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
30 Mon 9:36 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
31 Tue	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Wed 12:30 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
2 Thu	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	10:34 am
3 Fri 3:32 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
4 Sat	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
5 Sun 7:01 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
6 Mon	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
7 Tue 11:22 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
8 Wed	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
9 Thu	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	10:56 am
10 Fri 5:23 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
11 Sat	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
12 Sun 2:00 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
13 Mon	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
14 Tue	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
15 Wed 1:27 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
16 Thu	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
17 Fri 2:19pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	9:36 am
18 Sat	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
19 Sun	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
20 Mon 1:55 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
21 Tue	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
22 Wed 10:09 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
23 Thu	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
24 Fri 2:46 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	11:22 pm
25 Sat	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
26 Sun 5:02 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
27 Mon	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
28 Tue 6:38 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
29 Wed	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
30 Thu 8:56 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st	

Reprinted with permission from Llewellyn's 2009 Moon Sign Book, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Cindi Nofziger, Advertising Manager

DEADLINES

JAN/FEB ISSUE	NOV 1	JUL/AUG ISSUE	MAY 1
MAR/APR ISSUE	JAN 1	SEPT/OCT ISSUE	JUL 1
MAY/JUN ISSUE	MAR 1	NOV/DEC ISSUE	SEPT 1

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	$36	$40
2 INCH	$60	$66
3 INCH	$85	$94
4 INCH	$109	$119
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	$28 PER INCH	$30 PER INCH
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$116	$127
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$212	$231
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$418	$457
1/2 PAGE COLOR	$577	$627
FULL PAGE COLOR	$721	$787

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special- Buy 5 ads and receive 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads must be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/$18.00 Minimum. Each additional word is $1.20; a series of numbers counts as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be the same text and paid for in advance.

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Commercial members and any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also have a "hot" link to their page if they provide a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

****Commercial Membership** $37.00 per year (USA), $38.75 per year (International). Make checks payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required, submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category. All VISA and MasterCard charges must be $25.00 or more. Any amount less have to be paid by cash, check, or money order.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial members. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member **$33.00**
1" ad Non-Commercial **$36.00**
One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional $18.00 or $15.00, depending how it is paid (pay for 5, get 6th free).

Full page Black and White for Commercial Member **$380.00**
Full page black and White for Non-Commercial Member **$415.00**
One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional $210.00 or $175.00, depending how it is paid (pay for 5, get 6th free).

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page	Commercial Member	**$525.00**
	Non-Commercial	**$570.00**
Full Page	Commercial	**$655.00**
	Non-Commercial	**$715.00**

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Want members to know you sell on Ebay?
- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fundraiser?
- Small commercial growers: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try an inexpensive (15 words/$16.50 min. charge) classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups, and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Cindi Nofziger, *Advertising Manager*
1500 N.E. Mayview Dr
Albany, Oregon 97321
Phone: (541) 926-8116 • *Email:* ccnofziger@comcast.net

HGA

The Association for plant & flower people who grow in hobby greenhouses and windows!

Quarterly Magazine
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8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

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($22 Overseas, US funds/MO)
Sample magazine $3.50
Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers $2.50

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are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes, and patterns of stripes, bars, and zig zags year round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or $3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY
Carole Richtmyer – Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388

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Apex, NC
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Mrs. Irene Henry
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Canada

Web site: http://www.avsc.ca Email: info@avsc.ca

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Outside the U.S. $30.00

Please send check, money order, or credit card information to:

Membership Secretary
Bob Clark
1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637
Seattle, WA 98122-3916
membership@gesneriadsociety.org

Visit us online: http://www.gesneriadsociety.org

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WWW.AFRICANVIOLETBOOKS.COM
African Violets: Back to the Basics
African Violets: Gifts from Nature
Author: Melvin J. Robey

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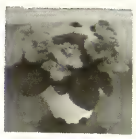

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Framingham, MA
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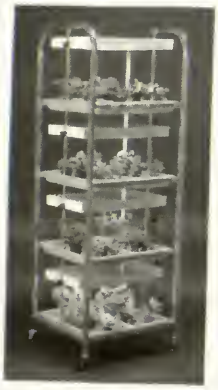

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http://www.geocities.com/patspets@sbcglobal.net

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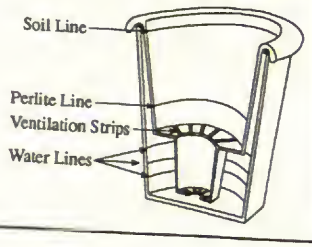
(907) 338-4510
Owner/Manufacturer



Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The African Rainforest Conservancy is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

$50.00 - Contributor
$100.00 - Rafiki (Friend)
$250.00 - Ndugu (Comrade)
$500.00 - Bwana au Bibi (Patron)
$1,000.00 Mhifadi (Conservator)
$5,000.00 Mezi (Guardian)

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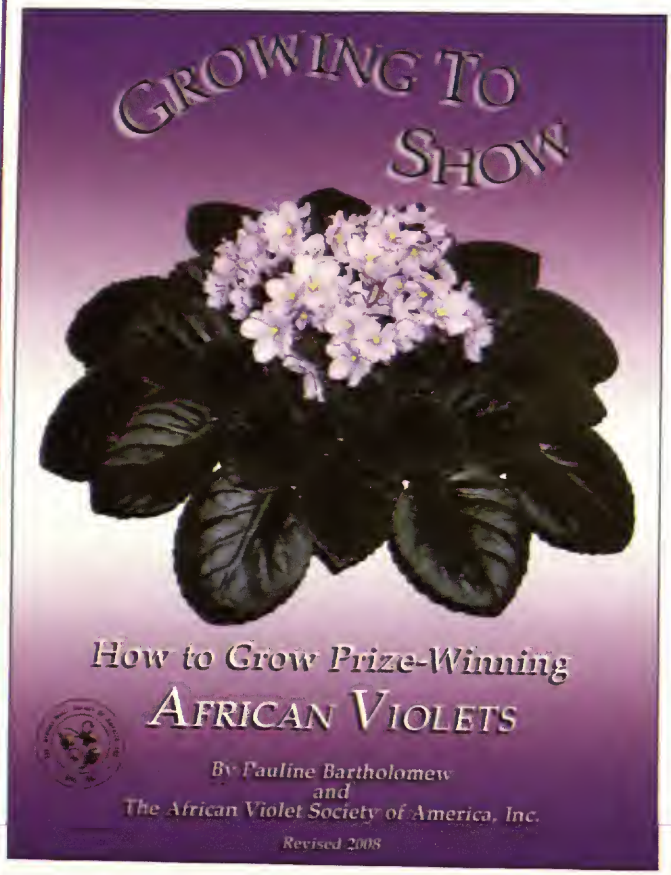

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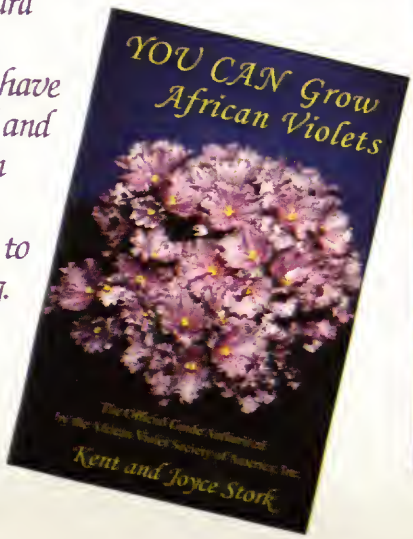

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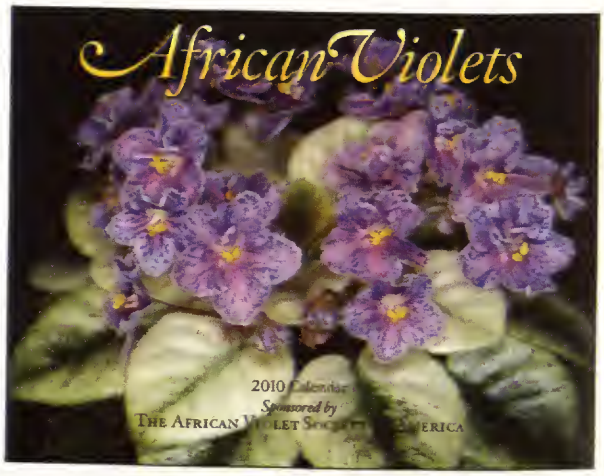

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